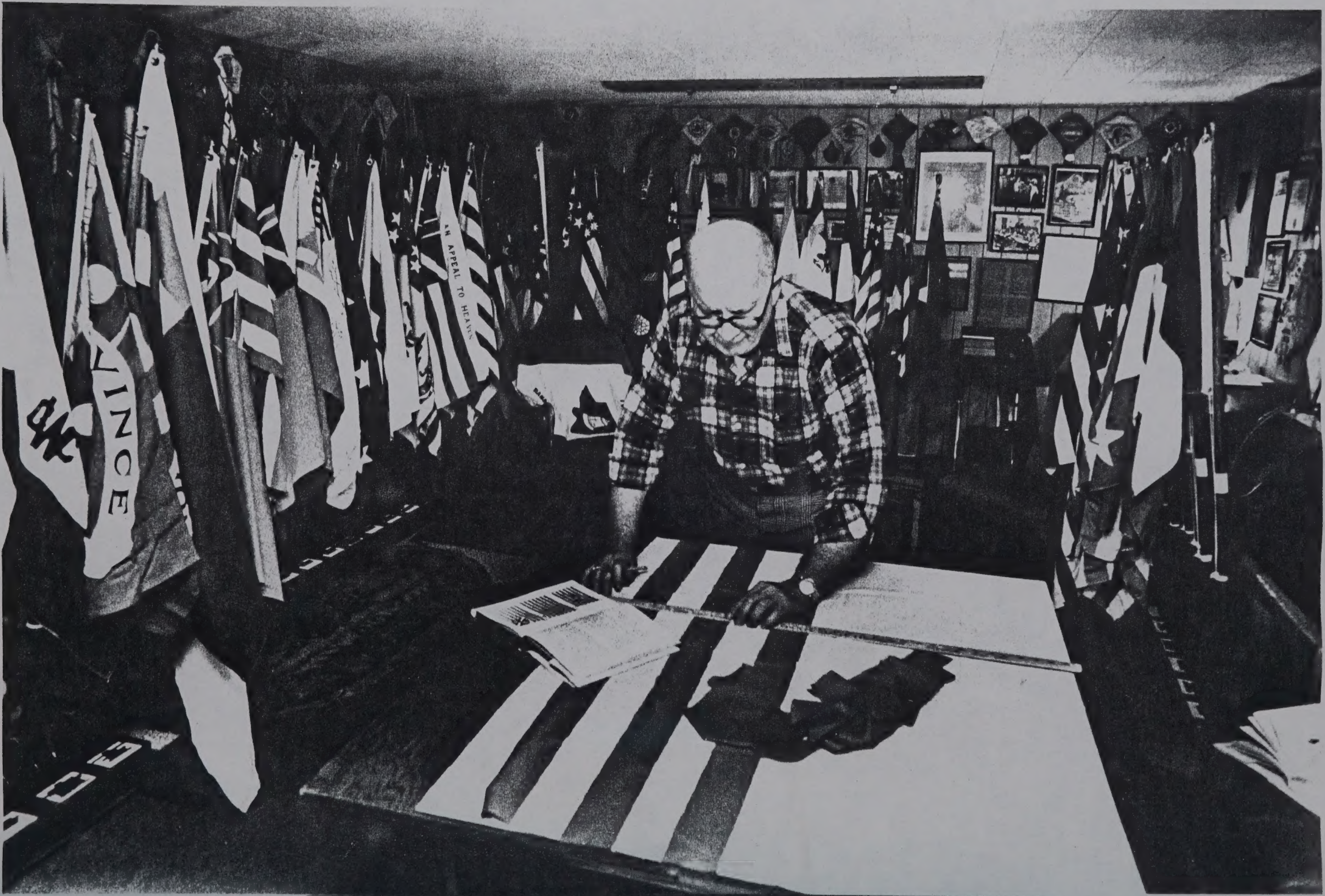
August 1980.

To our Grandchildren - Gregory, Steven, Debra, Richard, and Johathan,
and our nieces and nephews
we dedicate this book of our country's many flags that have flown over the territory of the contenental United States since the year of 1,000.

United States and its flag has been very good to us, Of course, our country has had some short comings over the years but we hope we will leave it better for you; and you, in return will improve it and love it as we have, we have collected some of the stories and, its history of the flags for you. We hope you will enjoy them as we do.

Grandma & Grandpa Olive & Les Bergmann.


VINCE
AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN

THE LIBERTYVILLE HERALD.10-22-1975.

Flags raise history lesson

by Kathy Schaeffer

Herald staff writer

Because of their hobby, some might call Les and Olive Bergmann modern-day Betsy Rosses. But Bergmann wouldn't like that. "Betsy Ross never made an American flag," Bergman will say.

But the Bergmanns have. They've sewn and collected 107 flags — many of them replicas of flags that flew over portions of the United States during its history.

Dispelling the myth that Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag is something the Bergmanns try to do when they make their flag presentations to schools, scouts and other groups.

The Bergmanns are not killjoys. Rather, they say they want to make sure that history is passed along accurately. According to records, Bergmann attests, the only flag Betsy Ross ever made was for the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

Knowing interesting details about flags is part of the Bergmann's hobby. As Bergmann picks through the flags standing at attention in their homemade bases, he relates little-known facts about each one.

As he pulls out a red flag with an intricate black stitching pattern on it, Bergmann relates how the flag was designed. "It was made for George Washington's cousin, Randolph." He wanted a flag, so on his way to battle he stopped at his girlfriend's house to ask her to make one.

"SHE WENT into her father's study and cut one of her father's new chairs" for a flag, Bergmann says.

Then, Bergmann opens up a tan flag made by John Hancock for "The Bucks of America," the country's first army regiment with blacks in it.

"This one originally was made from a bedsheet, a petticoat and blueberry juice," Bergmann says, stretching open another colorful flag. "Oh, yes," his wife Olive chimes in, "they used whatever they could find to make them."

In the opposite corner of the basement where some of the banners are stored, Mrs. Bergmann chuckles a little bit as she comes across one of the first flags that Bergmann ever sewed. It is the "Grand Union" flag of the United States. "See here where it's rippled. I couldn't get him to loosen the machine, the stitch was too tight," says Mrs. Bergmann, who taught her husband how to use the sewing machine.

"See, here's a more recent one — he's gotten much better with the machine," Mrs. Bergmann says with a smile. But then she admits that she has had a few snags in the flag-making business. "This one we made twice," she says, showing a flag with a complicated design with a lion on it. After they had sewn the flag, they found a picture of a lion that looked exactly like what the flag should look like. So they reworked the banner.

The Bergmanns, 75 and 74, began sewing and collecting flags about seven or eight years ago when they visited Indiana and saw a flag that once flew over the Northwest Territory. Bergmann bought a flag book and the hobby began. "One led to the next," Bergmann says of his flags.

But the Bergmanns don't like to keep all their enthusiasm for history to themselves so they pack up their flags and give talks about them. So far they've appeared before 81 schools, civic groups, scout troops and other clubs.

THEY ALSO pack a collection of revolutionary war and other historical records they have accumulated to go along with the flags. For local school groups, the Bergmanns do not charge for their presentation. But for groups that can afford it or those that require travel and lodging, they do ask a fee. The money they make is put into a special fund for Boy Scouts who cannot afford to go to camp.

Bergmann has been involved with Boy Scouting in one form or another for 63 years. And that sparked interest for two other large collections they have in their home.

Along several walls of their basement family room hang hundreds of Boy Scout neckerchiefs collected and traded since 1935 from jamborees all over the world. Bergmann takes pride in them and keeps the rarest and most valuable ones in a glass case. Boasting a bit, Bergmann points to a red neckerchief from the 1935 jamboree.

"It never happened because of the war," he explains, pointing then to the blue neckerchief next to it. "See, the next year they used the same pattern, but made it blue."

The neckerchiefs wrap around the Bergmanns' well-used fireplace. And if one looks carefully, it becomes clear that the fireplace itself and the wall around it is also a collection.

Since 1957, the Bergmanns have been collecting rocks, unusual stones, petrified wood and other artifacts from around the world. They have cemented them into the wall and fireplace and labeled each one. Nearby is a large map of the world with colored tacks to mark where each rock was collected.

Arrowheads, fossils and volcanic rock are included in the fireplace which also shows off a rough opal, amethyst and some native gold.

BUT THE Bergmann's interests are in live things too. Mrs. Bergmann is happy to show visitors her rows and rows of African violets. "This is a beautiful variety," Mrs. Bergmann says as she pinches off a brown bloom. "And over there is my Susan plant. I don't know what kind of violet it is, but the person who gave it to me is Susan, so I call it my Susan plant."

But the rocks, neckerchiefs and violets don't get dragged in front of audiences, or hung up on the three crossarms on the frontyard flagpole. Often right next to the American flag Bergmann will hang another of his flags with an explanation card beneath it for passersby.

For the Bergmanns, remembering and sharing historical information is important. They plan to continue to share their collections as long as they can.

But after that, they are unsure to whom they will give their flag collections. Perhaps their children will take them, although lack of space could be a barrier, Mrs. Bergmann says. Or, they may donate the flags to the Lake County Museum with the stipulation that Boy Scouts may check them out for their ceremonies and activities.

"These flags are important because each one has a history in the United States," Scoutmaster Bergmann says proudly. "Each one of them represented a span of the history of this country."

THE HERALD Wednesday, June 11, 1980 Section 1—3

WITH JUST ABOUT HALF their flags behind them, Olive and Les Bergmann talk about the adventures they have had together researching and sewing flags of America during the years. They enjoy studying flags.

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GLOSSARY

The following terms are commonly used in vexillology (v) and heraldry (h). There are many other heraldric terms which are not listed here but can be found in any good book on the subject. Particular attention should be paid to the definitions of ENSIGN, GENERAL USAGE FLAG, GOVERNMENT FLAG, STATE FLAG, MERCHANT FLAG AND NATIONAL FLAG, since these terms are used in the captions of illustrations in this book.

ARMS (v, h) or COAT OF ARMS refers to the graphic emblem used by a person, corporation entity to distinguish itself. The whole arms may consist of a shield, crest, motto, and supporters and is sometimes referred to as an ACHIEVEMENT or ARMORIAL BEARINGS. Arms also sometimes means the shield alone since in heraldry the shield is the essential part of a coat of arms.

BADGE (v, h) is a graphic emblem other than a coat of arms used as a distinctive mark; it often is composed of part of a coat of arms or a coat of arms with an added background

BANNER (v, h) is a term which has changed its meaning several times. Today it generally means a flag suspended along its top edge or between two poles. To the heraldist it is a flag bearing the shield design from a coat of arms.

CANTON (v, h) is the rectangular upper corner of a flag nearest the staff. In heraldry the upper corner is called a canton if it is less than one-fourth of a shield and a QUARTER if it is exactly one-fourth. In flags the word canton is used no matter how large or small the area involved. Example the Confederate Battle Flag canton in the Mississippi State Flag.

CHARGE (v, h) refers to a coat of arms or simpler emblem placed (or CHARGED) on a flag or shield. Example: the Arizona State Flag is charged in the center with a star.

CHIEF (h) is the top third of a shield. Example: the shield of the United States has a blue chief.

COAT OF ARMS - - see ARMS.

COLORS (v) are flags carried by military units or used by a military officer. Formerly in the United States the term was limited to infantry and other dismounted units, STANDARD being the term for the flag of cavalry, mechanized, and motorized units. Now that the flags of both are the same size, the terms are used interchangeably. Centuries ago, colors were synonymous with ensign (q. v.) Example: the color of the Second Regiment Rhode Island.

CREST (h) is the part of a coat of arms appearing above the shield, often on a helmet and torse (q. v.) The word is often falsely used in reference to a whole coat of arms.

DEFACED (v) refers to a flag which has had a special emblem added. Example: the colonial jack is the British Union Jack defaced with a white shield.

DEXTER (h) means right and SINISTER means left in heraldic terminology: this refers to the point of view of someone standing behind a flag (or shield), not the viewer.

DIMENSIONS (v) refer to the exact sizes in which a flag is made, as contrasted with its relative size (PROPORTIONS). Example the dimensions of the Pennsylvania flag are four feet siz inches by six feet two inches; its proportions are twenty - seven by thirty-seven.

ENSIGN (v) was originally the distinguishing flag of nationality flown at the poop or stern of a ship; it continues to have this meaning, except that in certain countries there are now some ensigns used on land.

FIELD (v) is the background of a flag. Example the flag of the Second Republic of West Florida has a blue field.

FIMBRIATED (v, h) means framed by a color; a FIMBRIATION is the same as a BORDER, but narrower.

FLY (v) is the length of a flag, as contrasted to its hoist (q.v.) The fly or FLY END of a flag also refers to that part farthest from the pole. Example: the flag of CLARK'S INDIAN ALLIES or INDIAN BANNER.

GOVERNMENT FLAG (v) is flown by the government of a political entity such as a nation or province; i.e., its use is restricted to official buildings and offical persons. Since it represents the whole state, however, it is often called the STATE FLAG (as opposed to the national flag, q.v.) but this term cannot conveniently by used in the United States, Brazil or Australia whose principal subdivisions are called states. Examples: North Dakota has a government or state flag as well as a state or general usage flag.

GROUND (v) - - the same as FIELD.

GUIDON (v) is a small flag, usually swallow - tailed (q.v.), which is carried by military units as a guide

HALYARDS (v) are the ropes by which a flag is hoisted. Other technical parts of the hoisting equipment may include GROMMETS, INGLEFIELD CLIPS, and RUNNING EYE OVER TOGGLE.

HOIST (v) is the width (British BREADTH) of a flag. The hoist is also that part of the flag nearest the pole. Example the North Carolina flag has a red stripe along (or at) the hoist.

JACK (v) is a small flag, often square, flown from the jackstaff at the prow of a ship or by extension, a flag of the same design-- such as a union jack (q.v.) -- flown elsewhere. Example: the jack of the Confederacy.

MERCHANT FLAG (v) is technically a flag reserved for use by privately owned vessels carrying cargo, but is often used by extension to mean " National Flag at Sea " (q.v.) Example: the merchant flag of France.

NATIONAL FLAG (v) is flown by the private citizens of a country. Where there is no special government flag (q.v.) the national flag is flown by the government. Thus the flag of the United States is both a national flag and a government flag. In subnational political units like the individual States of the United States, instead of a national flag it is more proper to speak of a " CITIZENS " FLAG " or " GENERAL USAGE FLAG." In some countries there are different designs for the NATIONAL FLAG ON LAND and the NATIONAL FLAG AT SEA. Example: the national flag of England.

OBVERSE (v) is the front of a flag or seal; REVERSE is the other side. For a flag, obverse is that side of the flag seen when the hoist (q.v.) is on the observer's left--except for ARAB flags where the reverse is true.

PENNANT (v) is a flag which tapers toward the fly. It is triangular and is usually flown at sea.

POLE (v) is a long cylindrical piece of metal or wood from which a flag is flown. Generally, a pole is permanently fixed in the ground or on a building, while a STAFF is smaller and not fixed in place so that it can be carried.

PROPORTIONS -- see DIMENSIONS.

PROTOVEXILLOID (v) is a primitive flaglike object, usually consisting of a staff with some object tied on top.

QUARTERED (v, h) refers to a flag or shield that is dicided into four parts by perpendicular lines; a shield may, however, have more than four QUARTERINGS.

SALTIRE (v, h) is a diagonal cross. Example: the flag of Spain.

SISISTER -- see DEXTER.

STAFF -- see POLE.

STANDARD (v) has had numerous meanings in the course of history. Originally, it meant a standing pole to which a flag might or might not be attached; most protoxexilloids (q.v.) were standards in this sense. Later the term came to be applied successively to a long pennant containing heraldic emblems; to a rectangular flag bearing the arms or emblem of a head of state; and to the flag of a cavalry unit (see COLORS). It is frequently used by nonspecialists as a general word for a flag around which men rally, as in the Standard of the Coast Guard.

STATE FLAG -- see GOVERNMENT FLAG.

SUPPORTERS (h) are figures of men or animals on either side of a coat of arms.

SWALLOW - TAILED (v) is a term applied to a flag with a V shaped cut in the fly. Example: The flag of Sweden.

TORSE 9 h) or WREATH is a stylized picture of a bar of twisted silk, placed between the helmet and crest (q, v.) in a coat of arms.

D.

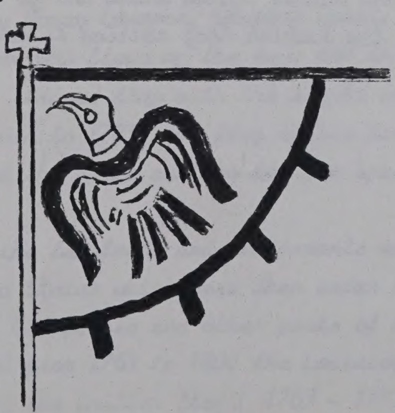
UNION (v) UNION DEVICE is a badge or flag symbolizing the union of political entities. In American and British practice, the union device has served as both a canton for the naval ensign and separately as a jack -- hence UNION JACK. Examples: the union device in the BUCKS OF AMERICA FLAG; the union jack of the United States.

VEXILLOID (v) is an object ehich is used like a flag and usually looks something like a flag. Examples: the PUELA and KAHILI of Hawaii.

WREATH -- see TORSE.

Modern artists conception of the "Viking Flag."
C - 800 to 1000,?

RAVEN - Flag of the Danish Vikings. (reconstructed)



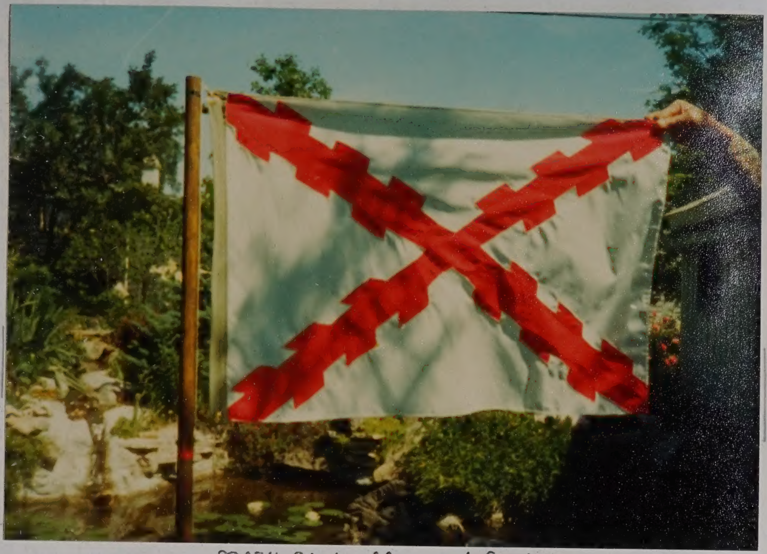
From the available evidence, it seems probable that the first true flags to fly in North America (and possibly in areas now part of the United States) were those which the Vikings are presumed to have brought with them in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Records dating from the era of the Danish rule in England indicate that most common Norse flag was the one known as " RAVEN, Terror of the Land" or simply RAVEN. According to the legend, the original RAVEN was made in a single forenoon by the daughters of Ragmar Lothbroc, a ninth - century Danish warlord. The banner was in theory without any device on it. yet "in every battle where that flag went before them, if they were to gain a victory a live raven would appear flying in the middle of the flag, but if they were doomed to be defeated it would hang down motionless." In fact, of course, the story was probably inspired by the changing wind, which caused the flag first to flutter and then hang limp. That the flag actually bore a raven is evident from illustrations on coins of the tenth century which have been found in England and Ireland. These coins also clearly show that the shape of the flag was an irregular triangle, not the rectangle which modern artists use in illustrating " the Viking flag." We do not know what colors were used for the raven and border of the flag, but the field was white.

(The above from Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.")

For the Norse explorers sailing the " Sea of Darkness " during the 11th. century, the BLACK RAVEN became a symbol of hope during months of doubt and perplexity, These Vikings during their voyages learned to depend upon the RAVEN to lead them to land. It was with the help of this faithful bird that Leif Ericsson and his crew reached the southern - most tip of Greenland and finally dropped anchor somewhere on the coast of North America.

(From " The story of OLD GLORY, by John R. Manning.")

Some historians say that the Vikings came inland as far as what is now Minnesota. If the Vikings did land on the United States shore and go this far inland, then they preceded by five centuries, the Spanish Flag carried by Columbus.



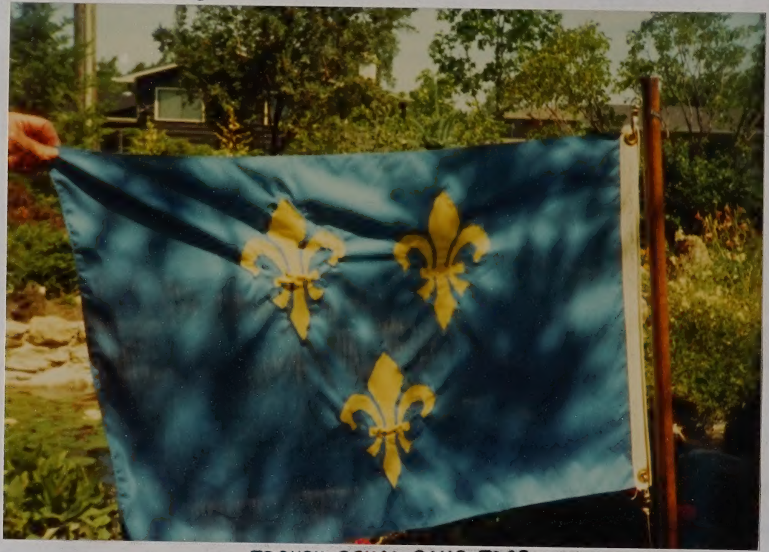
SPAIN State flag and Ensign.
1516 to 5-28-1785.
(Variant)

White with Red Saltire.

Many other Spanish flags were flown in the period 1492 - 1898 while Spain held a colonial empire in North America. The two most common flags, however, aside from the Royal Ensign, were the Red Saltire on white of Burgundy and the red and gold established on May 28th. 1785 by King Charles the 111. The Saltire in the flag is a special kind, drawn to suggest crossed branches. Supposedly its first use was by King Pelayo of Asturias in 718 A.D. It is most closely associated, however, with Burgundy and Spanish Flanders. The crossed branches were a favorite emblem of Phillip 1, Duke of Burgundy, who was regent of Spain in 1506, and his son, King Charles the first. (1516 - 1556), who was also the famous Holy Roman Emporor, Charles Quint. Thus from 1516 until 1785 a white flag with a red Saltire was flown on the seas and in all Spanish colonies in America. The red and gold - striped flag with the simple arms of Castile and Leon became the naval Ensign of Spain in 1785, the flag of its forts and other military buildings on March 8th. 1793, and the basic pattern for the Spanish regimental colors in 1843.

These flags flew over the few forts and settlements established by Spain in those areas now part of the United States which were then under their control. This included Florida; Texas; New Mexico; California and other parts of the southwest; Puerto Rico; certain Pacific islands; and from 1763 to 1800 the Louisiana Territory. In Florida, these flags were replaced by the British flag (1763 - 1783) and by the flags of West Florida Republic in 1810 and the United States in 1819. In 1821 Mexican flags substituted for those of Spain in the Southwest. In 1898 the Spanish - American War finally caused the Spanish symbols of authority to be lowered in Puerto Rico and the Pacific. Yet the era of Spain's dominon is not entirely forgotten, for their gold and red colors appear in the modern flags of Arizona and New Mexico. Castile and Leon are recalled in the castles and lions figuring in the seals or arms od such cities as Coral Gables, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Santa Fe.

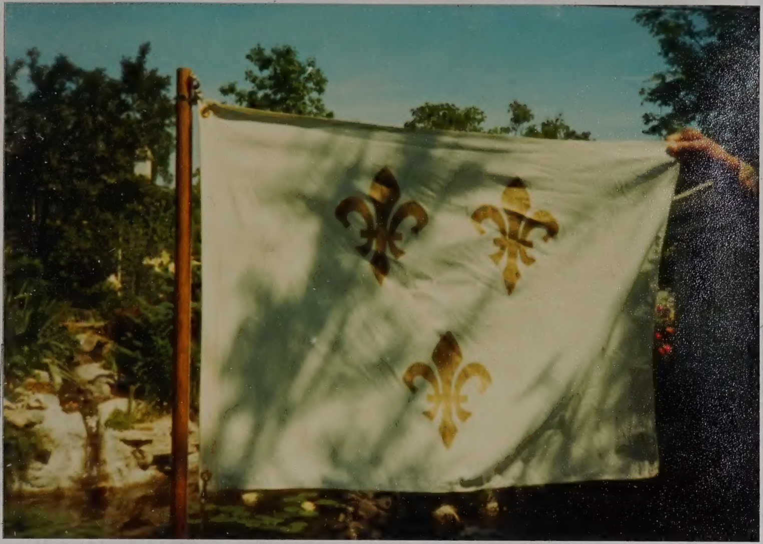
(The above from Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States)



FRENCH ROYAL BLUE FLAG.
STATE FLAG & ENSIGN C - 1370 - 1600.
(Variant)

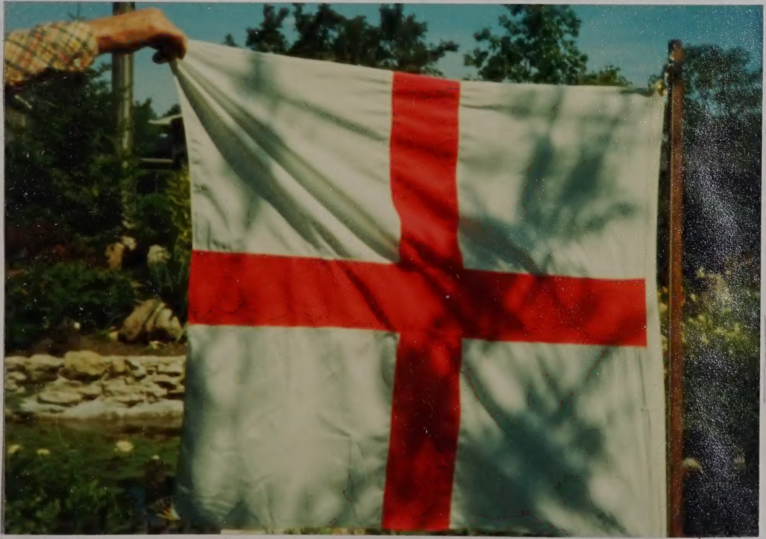
France, like Spain, had a great number of flags up until the end of the eighteenth century. But here again the most important flag carried by explorers and settlers was probably the royal' flag, since this was a symbol of the authority of the King in the new lands. (The royal flag was not the same as the King's personal standard, which would be flown only in his presence.) At the time of the expeditions of Verrazano and Cartier in the early sixteenth century the French royal flag was blue with three gold fleurs - de - lys, corresponding exactly to the shield in the royal French coat of arms. Actually, we have no direct evidence that either explorer hoisted this flag on land. In claming new territories the French, like the Portuguese, usually preferred a permanent marker indicating possession. Thus we have record that Cartier in August 1535 set up a large cross bearing the arms of France to establish his claim to the St.Lawrence River region. In any event the bannikre de France was uncommon after the early 1600's, In 1543 Cartier returned to North America for two years, to continue exploration of the St. Lawrence River. He built a fort at the site of the city of Quebec.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag book of the United States.)



FRENCH WHITE BANNER OF THE BOURBONS.
1589 - 1763.
(Variant.)

After 1589 the white flag of the Bourbons with three gold Fleurs - de - lys was carried by the French explorers and settlers as they moved across Canada, the Great Lakes area and down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. This flag was probably carried by LaSalle; Marquette; Joliet and Cadilliac. It was the flag lowered in 1760 when the British conquered New France and put an end to French aspirations for an empire in the New World.



ENGLISH - CROSS OF ST. GEORGE.

NATIONAL FLAG C - 1277 - 3-6-1707
MERCHANT JACK MAY 5 1634 – C – 1810.
AMERICA – 1606 – 1776.

The first recorded use of St. George's flag is in 1277, reference to the banners of other saints is still made as late as the end of Henry VIII's reign three hundred years later. In the seventeenth century the spirit of Puritanism forced the emimination of saints' emblems, but the cross of St. George was generally retained, being by this time considered as primarily a national symbol. It was thus the flag of St. George that most of the early English explorers flew when they traveled to the New World.*

On the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, the Royal line of Tudor rulers came to an end, and James VI of Scotland was invited to occupy the vacant English throne. Thus the two Kingdoms, which foe centuries had been bitter rivals, became united under his personal rule. But deep - seated jealousies persisted, and particularly at sea quarrels over issues like precedence and honors were constant.

To end such bickering, King James in 1606 created the Union Flag, which combined the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, ordering both the English and Scottish vessels, upon meeting, to display this emblem at their maintops, English ships were to also fly the Cross of St. George in their foretops, while the Scottish vessels were to display the Cross of St. Andrew, as they were accustomed.

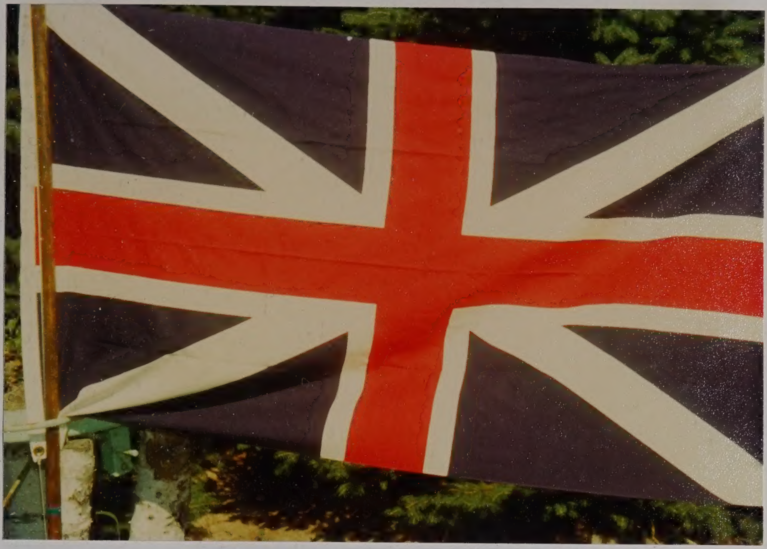
Joing the two flags is of signifiance to Americans since it brought together the colors red, white and blue which later became the National colors of the United States of America.

It was the Union flag which flew at the topmasts of the "SUSAN CONSTANT" and the "MAYFLOWER" when these vessels sailed from England in 1607 and 1620. The flag of St. George appeared at the foremasts.

The Cross of St. George was used by the colonies for many years, in some more than others.

* Two exceptions to this rule were the Cabots and Drake, who had special permission to fly the Royal banner.

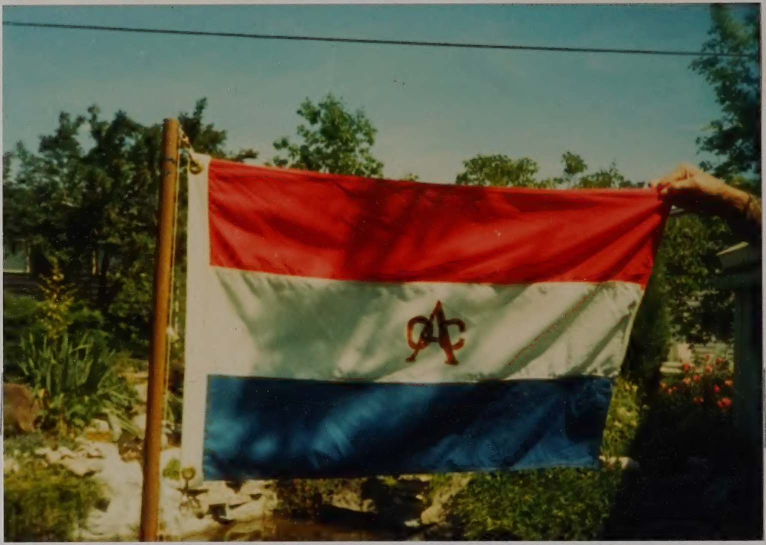
(From Whitney Smith " The flag book of the United States.)



GREAT BRITON (UNION FLAG or KING'S COLORS.)
State flag at sea 4-12-1606 to 5-5-1634.
Jack 5-5-1634 to 5-23-1649; 5-5-1660 to 1-1-1801.
State flag on land 1-28-1707 to 1-1-1801.

The Union flag combined the crosses of the two Saints of Great Briton and Scotland to show that England and Scotland had a common ruler. There have been some criticisms of this flag and its modern counterpart, most of them relating to the widths of the crosses. In particular the Scots protested from the very first until as recently as 1853 that the St. Andrew's cross should pass in front of St. George's cross instead of vice versa. But the real problem with the Union Jack (as it came to be called) was the great popularity it enjoyed with ships of all kinds, whether or not they were entitled to display it. On May 5th. 1634 Jame's successor, Charles 1, had decided that merchant vessels should distinguish from Men - of - War and ordered the former to cease using the Union Jack. The owners and Captains of English merchantmen were reluctant to return to the exclusive use of St. George's cross, however, for a number of reasons. The flag was not only more striking in appearance and more visible at sea; its use entailed a number of benefits. In foreign ports certain customs duties could be avoided; in the channel foreign ships were required to give a salute; and in general there was greater respect paid to a ship bearing the Union Jack than to one without it. Thus there began in the seventeenth century a contest between merchant ships which to fly the Union Jack or a flag very similar to it and the Board of Admiralty, which sought to restrict its use to Warships. Only in the twentieth century has the Admiralty won its way.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



DUTCH UNITED EAST_INDIA COMPANY.

(VARIANT)

1609 to 1664.

NEW NETHERLANDS.

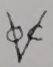
As one of the great seafaring nations of the era, the Netherlands joined other European states in seeking to exploit the potential riches of the New World. In 1609 the Dutch ship HALVE MAEN (Half Moon) under the command of Henry Hudson explored the area of North America from South Carolina to New York, especially the river which now bears Hudson's name. Since the Half Moon was sponsored by the United East India Company, it probably flew the Company's flag. The Company divided into a number of Chambers, each with a flag of its own. It is quite possible, therefore, that the Half Moon also flew the flag of Amsterdam Chamber which had sent Hudson out to find a passage to the East. Both these flags had the same basic pattern - a horizontal tri - color with an appropriate hallmark on the center stripe. The Chamber used the city flag of Amsterdam with its Red (top), white, and black stripes, while the Company itself used the National Stripes of orange (top), white, and blue.

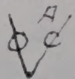
The hallmarks contained the three letters VOC for VEREENIGTE OOSTINDISCHE COMPAGNIE, the Company name in Dutch, and the same letters plus A for Amsterdam.

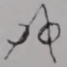
Company flags are an important part of Vexillology in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries because the companies, rather than the governments themselves, were in many cases responsible for the actual exploration, settlement, and administration of colonial territories in all parts of the world.

Thus the Dutch settlements in New Netherland which began in 1624 and ended forty years later with the British capture of New Amsterdam (renamed New York) propably flew both the Company flag and the plain national flag.

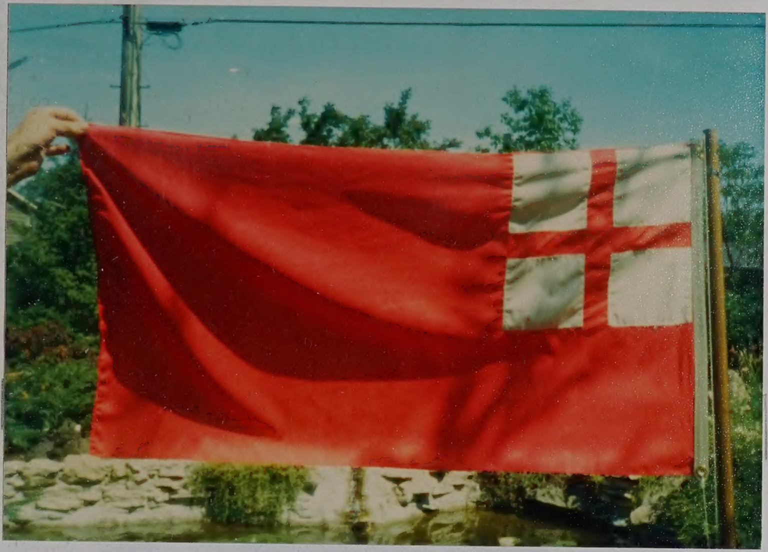
Ciphers of the Company and its Amsterdam chamber early 1600's.







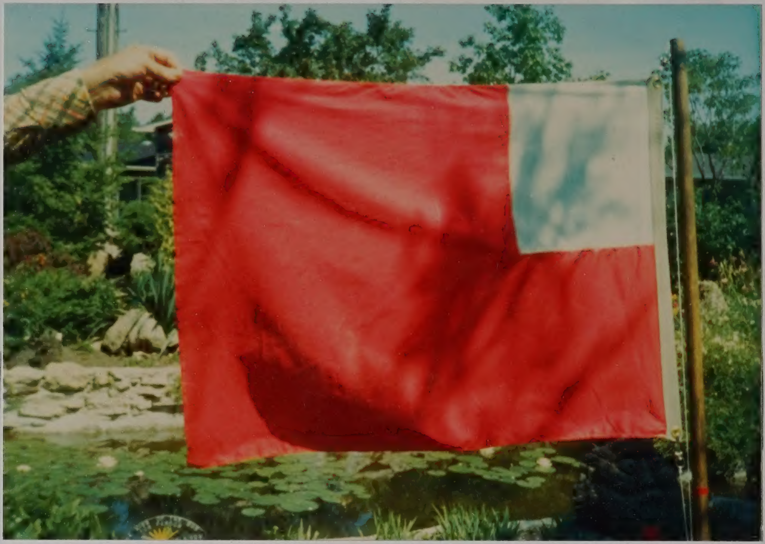
(From Whitney Smith "The Flag Book of the United States.)



GREAT BRITAIN (RED ENSIGN.)
Ensign and National flag at sea
(Unofficial) C - 1621 to 7-28-1707.
Official as National flag after 9-18-1674.

Following the creation of the Union Jack in 1606, the most significant development in British flags was the unofficial growth in the use of Ensigns.* In the sixteenth century merchant ships and especially War vessels sometimes flew a flag at the stern which included the red cross of St. George, across thewhole flag or in the canton, plus stripes of various colors. There was no regularity of design until about 1625 when the first "Red Ensign" came in use. The hoisting of such a flag by merchant vessels was formally recognized in 1663 by Charles !! and both private and public ships bore the "Red Ensign" until 1707. After that date merchant ships continued to display the "Red Ensign", but ships of War frequently had ensigns in which the field was blue or white instead of red.

(From Whitney Smith " The flag book of the United States.)



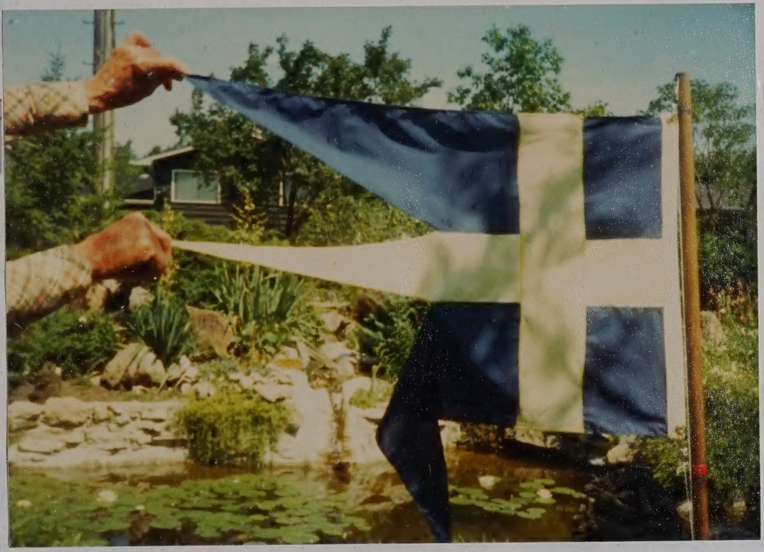
MASSACHUSETTS BAY
Unofficial.
General usage flag at sea.
Company color November 1634 - C - 1686.

The 1600's were a time of religious turmoil for Englishmen, and one expression of this can be found in the symbols that they displayed. The Puritons who populated the Massachusetts Bay Colony were convinced that true Christianity required them to eliminate every trace of idolatry and paganism, which they understood to include all " badges of superstition." The extremists among them considered that the Cross of St. George was given to the King of England by the Pope, as an ensign of victory, and so (was...) a superstitious thing, and a relic of Antichrist." Spurred on by a sermon denouncing the cross, in November 1634 John Endicott, a member of the local government, ordered the Ensign bearer of Salem, Massachusetts to cut out the red cross from the infantry colors then in use (Great Britain Red Ensign.) Others, fearful that this act would be viewed in England as a sign of rebellion, brought the matter before the General Court (the local legislature) where Endicott was censured for " rashness uncharitableness, indiscreon, & exceeding the lymitts of his calling " and was " disinabled for bearing any office in the Commonwealth, for the space of a yeare nexte ensueing."

The question was far from settled, however, in March 1636 the much agitated General Court left it up to the Military Commissioners to determine the correct Regimental colors and without exception they left out the cross. The Red Ensign flown on Castle Island at the entrance to Boston Harbor presents a special problem, however, since it was visible to all passing ships as well as the inhabitants of the town. After long and heated debate, it was decided to leave this flag undefaced since the Castle was the property of the King; yet Dutchmen who were in Boston in 1680 reported seeing the red flag with the plain white canton such as the militia used. other references indicate that local ships flew this form of flag, so we may consider that between 1636 and about 1686 there existed, at least unofficially, a distinctive Massachusetts Red Ensign.

This then was the first flag of revolt or descent in America.

(From Whitney Smith " The flag book of the United States.)



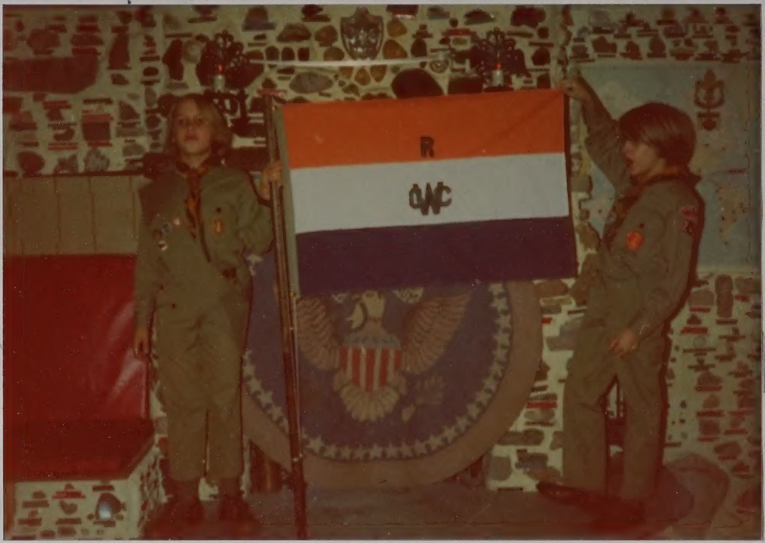
SWEDEN, State Flag and Ensign.
In New Sweden 1638 - 1655.
(Variant)

Peter Minuit the Director General of the Dutch West India Company of New Amsterdam also had a hand in the bringing to America the ;ast challenger for control of the continent - Sweden. After leaving the Dutch colony in 1628 Minuit helped to organize the New Sweden Company and ten years later he founded a Swedish settlement on the Delaware River, (within the present limits of Wilmington, Delaware.)

Minuit's flag was now the historic banner of Sweden - a Gold cross on a blue field. This flag followed the common Scandinavian swallow - tailed pattern, even though the Swedish National Flag was (and) is rectangular.

The new colony attained such a prosperity that it attracted the covetous eye of the New Netherland government. The strong - minded Peter Stuyvestant marched troops into New Sweden in 1655 and hauled down the Swedish flag.

(From Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.

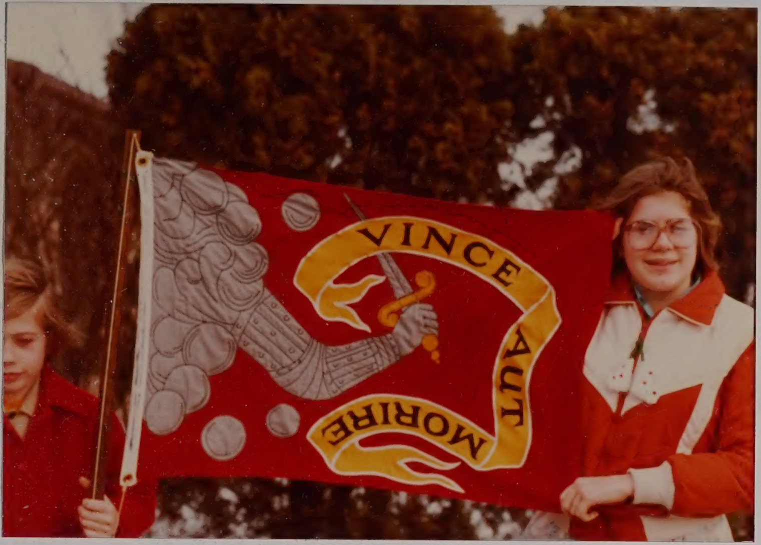


(. DUTCH) CHARTERED WEST INDIA COMPANY.
C - 1650 to 1664.
Variant.

The orange, white and blue stripe known as the Prince's flag - goes back to April 1572 or perhaps even earlier. The Dutch at that time were fighting their 80 years war of independence against the Spanish, the Prince William of Orange became their leader. In honor of his name the various Dutch flags then in use were replaced by the Prince's flag. This flag, often with six or nine stripes instead of three, became well known on all the oceans of the world as the National Flag of the United Netherlands. In the seventeenth century the orange stripe was gradually altered to red which is still in use today, although this was not officially confirmed until 1795. The first reference we have to a red stripe is in November 1630 but the use of red apparently did not become common until 1650 - 1672 when the States - General refused to name a member of the House of Orange as head of State.

The Oragne, White & Blue and the Red, White & Blue flags were used in New Netherlands, which included parts of Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and New York.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



BEDFORD or THREE COUNTY TROOP FLAG.
A CORNETTE.
C - 1660 to ?.

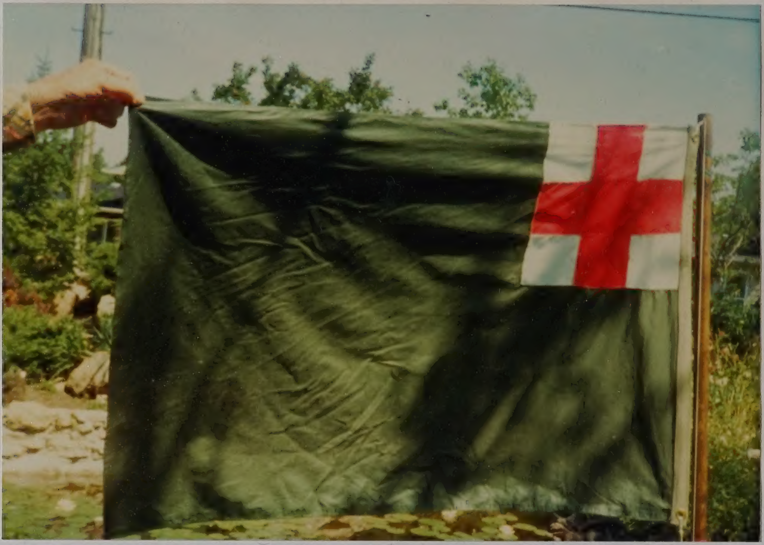
Until the reorganization of the English Army in 1661, following the Restoration, there was little regularity in the colors carried by British troops. This was especially true in the cavalry where each company was raised by its own commander and hence carried a flag of his devisinf. These " cornettes " were about two feet square and generally bore allegorical pictures and mottoes. Two examples of such cornettes are preserved in this country - the Moulton flag and the Bedford flag. The latter is made of crimson damask with the arm, sword, clouds, etc., painted on in gold, silver, and black. There appears to be good reason for believing that this flag was made in the 1600's for the Three County Troop which operated in Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts. Tradition asserts that one hundred years later Nathaniel Page, a minuteman, carried this cornette at the Battle of Concord on April 19. 1775. This battle, which with the engagement earlier that morning at Lexington signaled the beginning of the American Revolution, was commemorated in Emerson's now - famous poem:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard around the world.

Today this flag, the oldest still in existence in the United States and one of the oldest in the New World, is on display at the Bedford (Mass.) Public Library.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

NOTE The manufacture made this flag oblong instead of square.

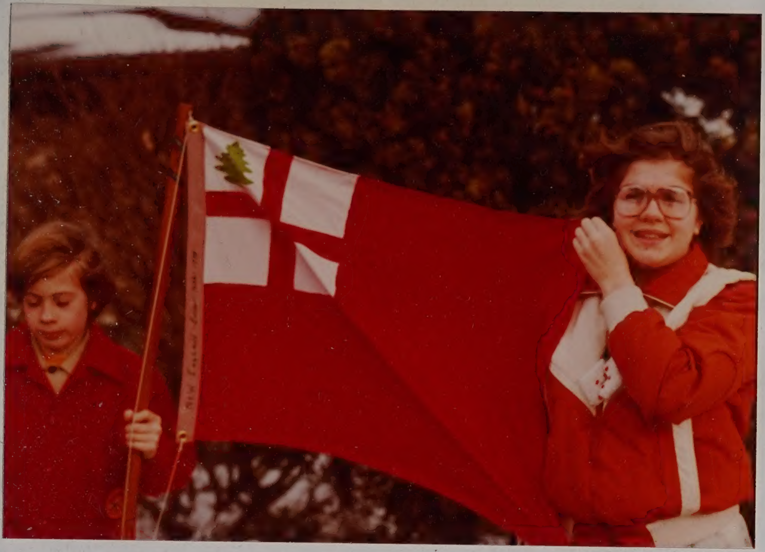


CAPTAIN THOMAS NOYE'S COMPANY FLAG.
Also called THE NEWBURY FLAG.
(RECONSTRUCTED)
C - 1684.

British infantry flags were larger then cornetts (about four feet six inches by six feet) and more standerized in design. The Companies within a Regiment were commanded, in decreasing seniority, by a Colonel, Lieutant Colonel, Major, First Captain, Second Captain, and so forth. Until 1661 in England and untill about 1685 in America the system of Ensigns, as the Infantry colors were called, was generally as follows: The Colonel's Company had a plain flag of red, white, green, or blue; The Lieutant - Colonel's Company added a canton of St.George's cross; and the Major's Company added the canton with a ray. The Ensigns of the Captains included the canton plus a circle in the fky of the flag for the First Captain, two circles for the Second Captain, etc. References exist to a number of these infantry flags, although no American examples remain.

The 1684 flag of Captain Thomas Noye's Company - green with a canton of St.George is a reconstructed flag. This flag has incorrectly been labeled by some authors as a town flag for Newbury, Massachusetts.

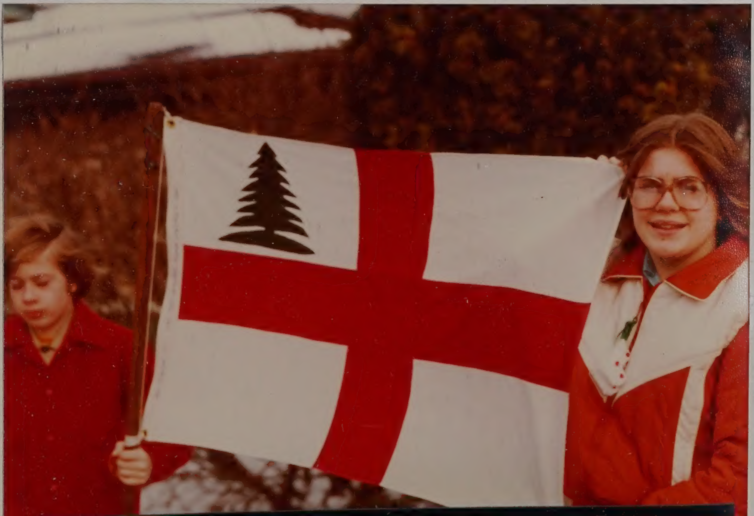
' From Whitney Smith " The flag book of the United States.)



NEW ENGLAND (ENSIGN)
(PINE TREE FLAG; BUNKER HILL FLAG)
GENERAL USAGE FLAG UNOFFICIAL.
C - 1686 -- C - 1775

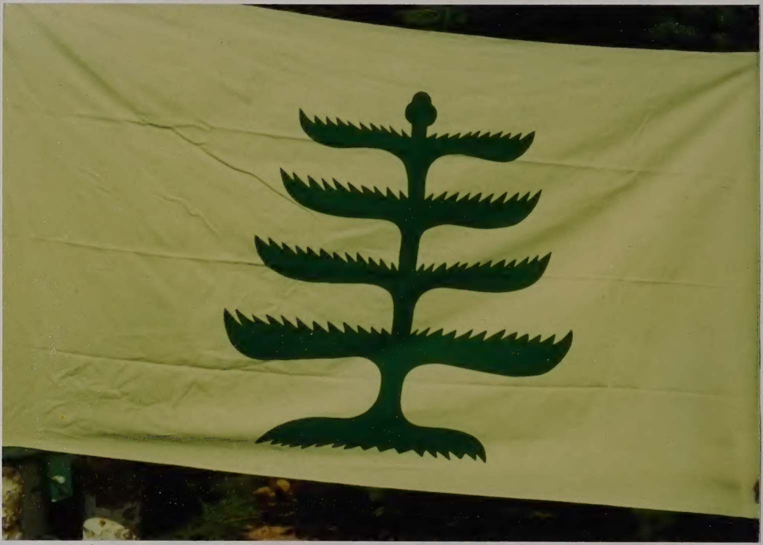
Just at the time the cross of St. George reappears in the Red Ensign, another distinctive flag for New England came into use. This was the English Red Ensign with a tree in the uppermost corner. There was also a jack form, consisting of the flag of St. George with the tree in the canton. Although our sources are scanty, it seems clear from available evidence that the New England ensign and jack remained in use on both land and sea for almost a century, that is until the American Revolution. The cross of St. George and the Red Ensign then ceased to be appropriate and the flag took on a somewhat modified form which has lasted to the present.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States)



.NEW ENGLAND (JACK)
GENERAL USAGE FLAG ON LAND.
(UNOFFICIAL)
C - 1686-- 1775)

See New England Ensign on page 15.



PINE TREE FLAG.
C - 1700 - 1778.

·Early in the 1700's Colonial shipping had expanded to such an extent that it became advisable for merchant vessels to fly some sort of flag identifying them with a particular province. New York shippers, for example, adopted a white banner showing a black Beaver (for the lucrative fur trade.) And Massachusetts Bay ships flew a white emblem decorated with the now familiar New England Pine Tree. When independence was won these early colonial banners became the ancestors of the modern State flags. (The Pine Tree still exists today on the reverse of the Massachusetts State flag.)

The widening gulf that developed between America and Great Britain after the French and Indian War was graphically illustrated in Colonial flags. At first the source of discontent sprang from what Americans regarded as an infringement of inherent liberties. They dramatized their desires by pasting mottoes on the British Red Ensign. At Taunton, Massachusetts, indignant townspeople gathered on the village green in 1774 and hoisted an Ensign bearing the watchwords " LIBERTY and UNION." (At this early date " union " probably referred to the colonial desire for coequal status with England in a federation united by a common monarch, rather than to an effective organization of the thirteen provinces, still very much disunited.)

About the same time Pennsylvania patriots belonging to a local defense organization called the " Associators raised a more decorative red ensign. It bore a cailed Rattlesnake and the warning " FON'T TREAD ON ME." This was the flag of John Proctor's Independent Battalion of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, as attested by the initials (J. P. and J. B. W. C. P.) lettered above the snake.

As the relationship between the Colonies and the mother country steadily worsened, patriot resentment became so strong that it could no longer be expressed by mottoes pasted or sewn on British flags. New banners were devised all along the Atlantic seaboard reflecting in heraldry the political opposition that had flamed up from economic coercion (nonimportation of British goods) to armed violence (the burning of the GASPEE and the BOSTON TEA PARTY.) The Associators of Hanover, Pennsylvania, exemplified this increased defiance by resolving " That in the event of Great Britain attempting to force unjust laws upon us by strength of arms, our cause we leave to Heaven and our rifles." To symbolize their intent, they adopted a red flag charged with a rifleman at the ready and the unequivocal choice. " LIBERTY or DEATH."

Another new banner was haisted at Charleston, where two regiments of militia began strengthening the harbor defenses. Colonel William Moultrie, devised a simple blue flag with a white crescent in the canton. This flag sometimes reproduced with the addition of the crisp legend " LIBERTY " across the lower edge.

In New England, the Pine Tree device predominated, sponsored primarily by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where it had appeared on the English ensigns and had been minted on local coinage for at least a hundred years. The proud PINE TREE appeared on at least two different types of banners haisted over Colonial redoubts during the Battle of Bunker Hill. Replicas of both flags hang in the Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis.

(From Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger)

GREAT BRITAIN (QUEEN ANNE - RED ENSIGN - RED DUSTER or METEOR.)

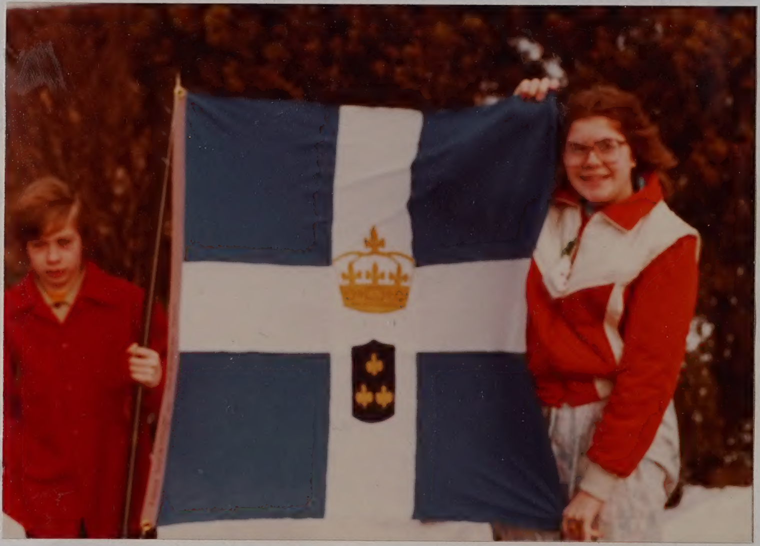
Ensign and National flag at sea 7-28-1707 to 1-1-1801.

In America untill 7-4-1776.

Early in the sevebteenth century it became customary for ships in the Royal Navy to fly a small banner on the bowsprit. This was called the jack, and in the beginning it was a small edition of the earlier Union flag. As time passed, however, it evolved into a red flag with the Union in its first canton, that is, in the upper left - hand quarter of the field, the position occupied in the American flag by the stars. From 1707 on, both this new " METEOR " flag and the Union flag remained in common use. Both were developed, as we have seen, for use at sea.

The United States is the offspring of Great Britain, and the story of its flag is closely interwoven with that of Great Britain the Mother country. For a century and a half, the American Colonies shared British flags, the Union and the RED METEOR banners being familar sights in all their coastal harbors.

(From the History of the United States Flag, by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.



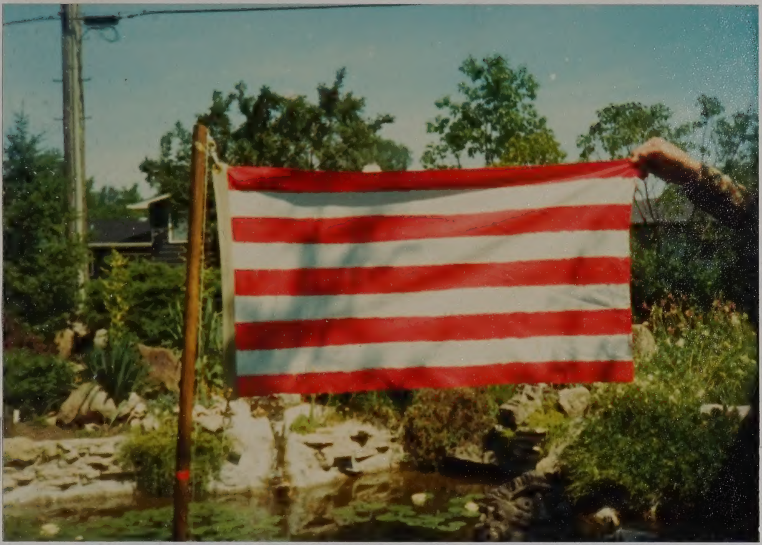
FRANCE - Flag of the "CORPS De CASERNE "

Fort De Chartres in Illinois.

1720 - 1763.

Flag of the French Marines that made up the military arm of France in Illinois from the early 1600's to 1763 when the Fort was surrendered to the British at the close of the French and Indian War.

Fort DeChartres was meant to be the Capitol of the French Empire in the new world. The first fort was erected in 1720 of wood logs. The remains of this huge stone fort built in 1753 are a National Historic Site. Only the powder magazine remains. Reconstructed barrachs serve as a museum.

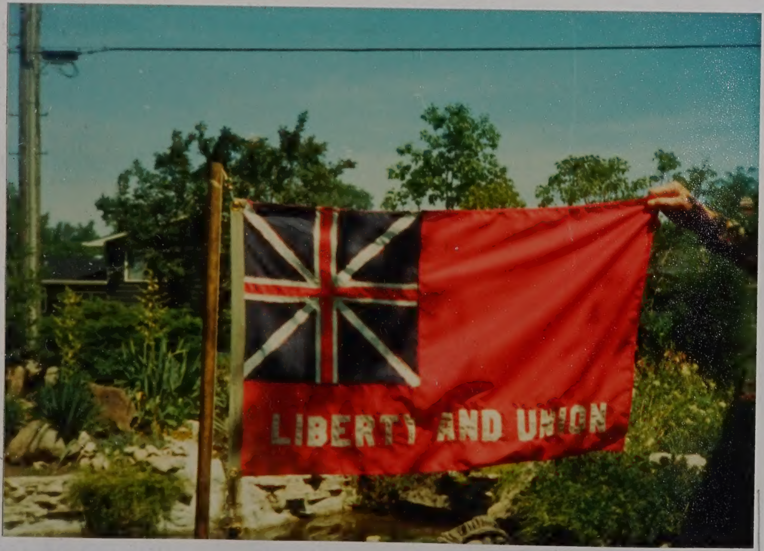


SONS OF LIBERTY or REBELLIOUS STRIPES.
10 - 7 - 1765 to 12 - 1773.

Early revolutionaries, known as the " Sons of Liberty " those patriots who staged the " Boston Tea Party " in December of 1773, had their own flag, the " Rebellious Stripes." This nine red and white striped flag represented the nine colonies participating in the Stamp Act Congress. This flag was sometimes used by Colonial merchant ships.

The nine colonies of the Stamp Act Congress were Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.

(From the story of Old Glory, by John R. Manning.)

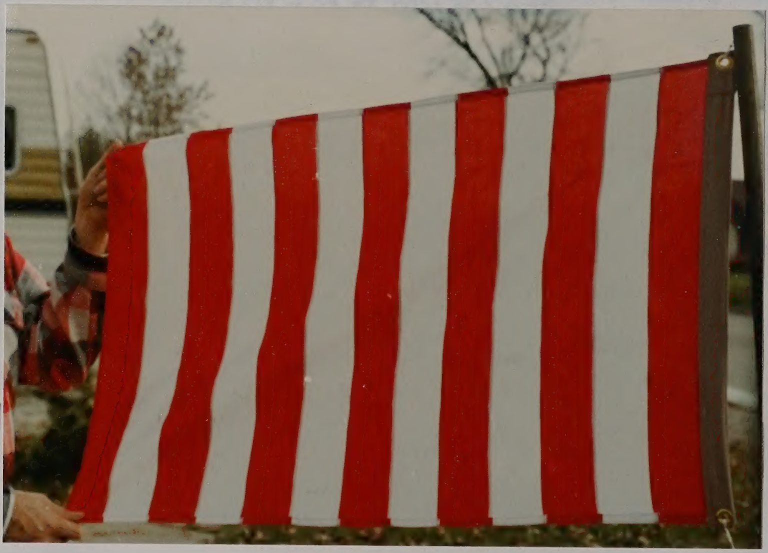


TAUNTON FLAG.

DEFACED BRITISH RED ENSIGN

1774 to ?

In 1774, the militiamen of Taunton, Massachusetts painted the words " LIBERTY and UNION " across a captured British Red Ensign, making the Taunton flag, one of the early standards of the American Revolution. The meaning of the word " Liberty " was not all that it afterword became, in the beginning, the colonists wanted the freedom to take part in the making of the laws under which they were taxed. With their help, the Mother Country had conquered New France, and the whole of Canada was now British, in return, the colonies were being asked to pay a tax for the war debt, but with no representation in Parliament. There was a strong belief that the English Government had no right to tax the colonists at all, while their cousins in England paid a much heavier tax than was charged the colonists.



LIBERTY TREE FLAG.

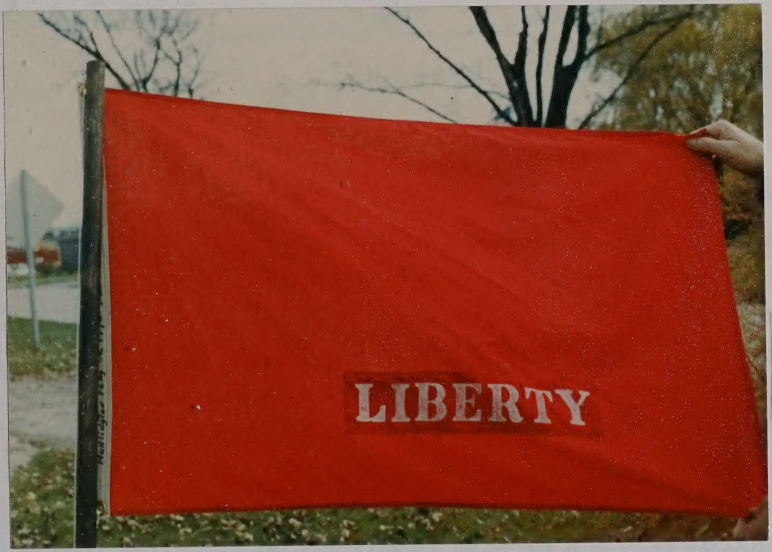
C - 1769

In numerous small towns and large cities across America, on the eve of the Revolution, patriots chose a large tree or erected a pole or mast as a symbol of liberty. The original of these so - called "LIBERTY TREES " was probably an old elm which stood at the corner of Washington and Essex streets in Boston, Massachusetts. Effigies of royal officials had been hanged from its limbs in 1765 as protest against the hated Stamp Act which had been imposed on the colonists.

The tree was eventually felled and used as firewood by British soldiers, but other "LIBERTY " trees and poles appeared throughout the colonies as tokens of opposition to royal and parliamentry tyranny. These were frequently cut down by the British, although others usually took their place within a short time. On many of them a " LIBERTY flag on CAP, a symbol of freedom, was hoisted, and the "LIBERTY TREE FLAG " is an example - the only one known to still exist.

It may have been the same one that was flown over the LIBERTY tree in Boston on July 31. 1769 when Sir Francis Bernard, the unpopular governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was ordered home to England.

The original of the LIBERTY TREE FLAG is now at the Old State House in Boston. Its vertical stripes are still found today in the flag of the United States Coast Guard.

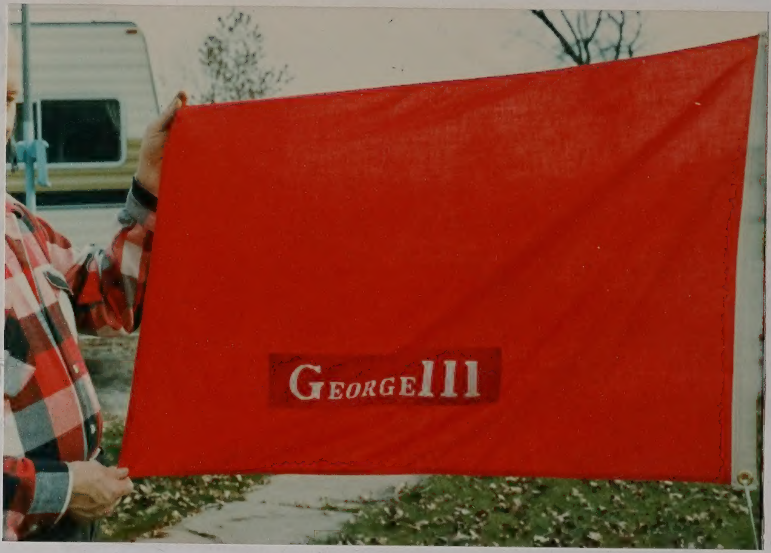


(Obverse)
HUNTINGTON FLAG.
C - 1770 - 1776

This plain but eloquent banner of protest was flying from a LIBERTY POLE in Huntington, Long Island when the Declaration of Independence was read to the people of the town.

Adopted on July 4. 1776 after more than two days of debate at the State House in Philadelphia, the Declaration was first introduced to the public in Philadelphia on July 8, when it was read from a platform in the State House yard. The following day in New York, General George Washington's troops assembled at six P.M. on the Common to hear the Declaration proclaimed. As the commander in chief stated in his formal order. " The General hopes this important event will serve as a fresh incentive to every officer and soldier.. knowing that now the peace and safety of his Country depends (under God) solely on the success of our arms."

Reaction came swiftly to the brave new Declaration which - after listing the abuses



(Reverse)

of King George 111 - indicted the King as a "Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant... unfit to be the Ruler of a free People." Later on the evening of July 9, the citizens of New York rejoiced, Led by the Sons Of Liberty, they pulled down the gilded equestrian statue of George 111 on the Bowling Green. Afterward, the statue was melted down and the 4,000pounds of lead were used to make bullets for the American army.

On July 22 the Declaration was read in Huntington, and there was similar patriotic action. It was known that the British were preparing to attack New York and were massing their troops for the invasion. As Washington readied his defenses, Revolutionary leaders of the towns on Long Island rallied support among the populace. When the people of Huntington learned of the Declaration, they removed their flag - with the word " LIBERTY " on one side and " GEORGE 111 " on the other - from their LIBERTY POLE, and ripped the King's name from the banner. The Huntington patriots then burned the King in effigy, along with the offending patch from the flag, and drank 13 toasts to the new nation.

(From the story of Old Glory, by John R. Manning.)

CAMBRIDGE COMMON FLAG.
C - 1775

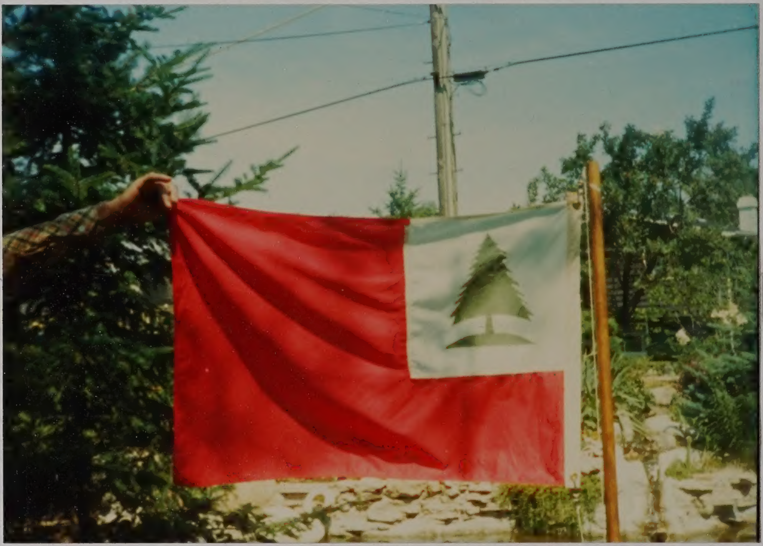
The colonial town of Cambridge in Massachusetts was known to be well populated with patriots - a fact which became obvious on the night following the Boston Tea Party when thousands gathered at the Courthouse to force the resignation of local crown officials, including the high sheriff, judges and councilors. William Dawes and Paul Revere galloped toward Cambridge on a memorable April night in 1775 to warn of the approach of British troops, and minutemen in the area quickly assembled in the town square.

Other companies of colonial militia had now laid siege to the city of Boston with its British military occupants, and the Continental Congress knew the time had come to organize the defense. This required the establishment of a united colonial army and the appointment of a Commander - in - Chief. A group headed by John Adams favored the election of George Washington who, as a Virginan, would disprove the idea that New England was trying to control the colonies. On June 15. 1775 Washington was unanimously chosen as Commander - in - Chief of the Continental forces.

On July 2, General Washington arrived in Cambridge where he made his headquarters in a two - story frame house, later to become the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, author of the famous PAUL REVERE'S RIDE. On July 3, the troops gathered on Cambridge Common for review by their new Commander - in - Chief.

Washington had already started work on the many tasks involved in the organization of an army which would soon be called upon to face one of the most powerful military forces in the world. Among the myriad details involved, he ordered a supply of red bunting to make flags for use around Boston, as well as on Cambridge Common. A plain red flag such as these had often been used in Europe as a sign of martial law or a symbol of " No Quarter " during navel engagements. Its significance during American Revolutionary times lies in its official recognition by the colonial forces in the earliest days of organized struggle against the British prior to the adoption of the Continental colors as the first national flag.

(From the story of Old Glory, by John R. Manning.)



CONTINENTAL FLAG

Variant of New England Flag

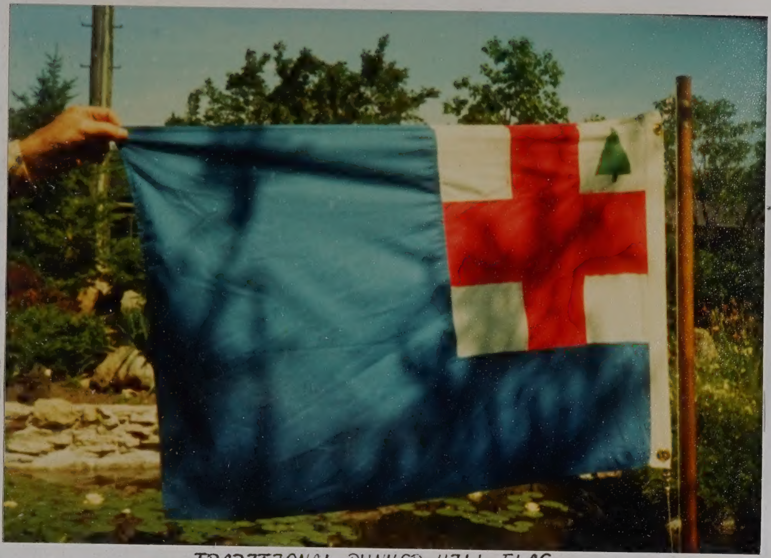
C - 6 - 17 - 1775 to ?

Ensign

This red flag with a white canton and green Pine Tree is believed to have been carried at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th. 1775. John Trumbull's painting shows this flag.

Volumes have been written about the battle of Bunker Hill (really Breed's Hill.) but we have no real knowledge that any American flags were flown in it. John Trumbull, whose paintings of the Revolutionary war scenes are widely famous, was an eye witness, and his subsequent drawing depicting the battle, with the Americans giving way before the final British assult, shows two flags prominently displayed. One of these was a red flag having a green tree on a white canton, and the other a red flag of solid color with no discernible design. Although Trumbull took great pains to obtain correct representation of his human subjects, he gave free rein to artistic fancy in other respects. He cannot be depended upon, therefore, in all regard to details.

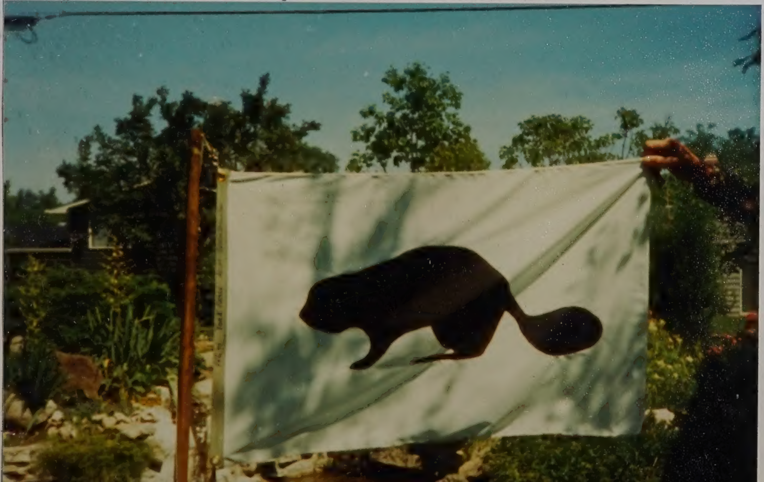
(From Flags of all Nations, Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia.)



TRADITIONAL BUNKER HILL FLAG.
6 - 17 - 1775 to ?

A variant of the New England flag, used frim 1686 to 1775 (unofficial.) A serious misconception about the Bunker Hill flag regards the color of its field. It has already been painted out that the Red Ensign became familiar through a century and a half of use on Men - of - War, merchant ships, forts, and in military formations. As the universally recognized National colors of England, the Red Ensign was the logical basis for a flag representing its namesake in America. The blue ensign in contrast had only limited use as the least important of the squardonal identification colors, blue having never been an English color. Yet many books dating as far back as 1716 show a blue field for the New England flag, there are two significant points to note about the sources that show such a field. Comparison indicates that all of them copied heavily from a single source which pictured a blue field, but described it directly underneath as red.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

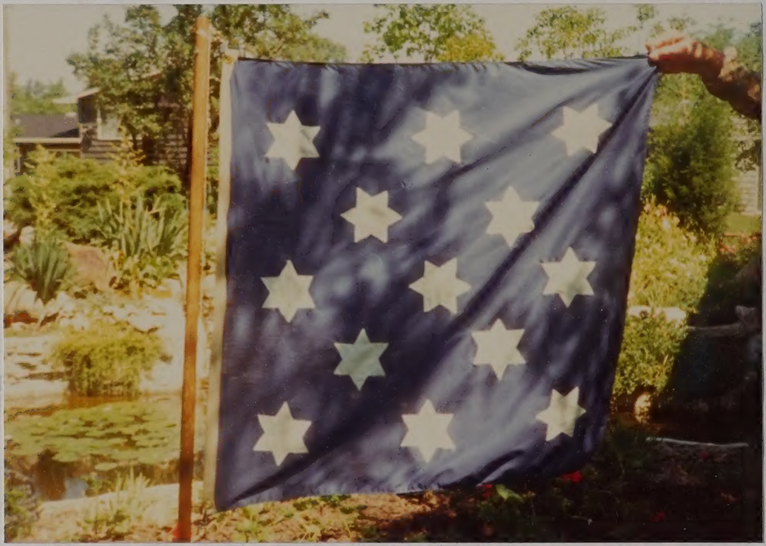


FLAG OF THE NEW YORK ARMED SHIPS.
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The flag of New York Colony Navy on armed ships haf a white field with a large black Beaver. A symbol of the natural riches of the area. The Beaver, was first used by the Dutch in their official seal.

Other colonies used other symbols to represent their main sources of revenue.

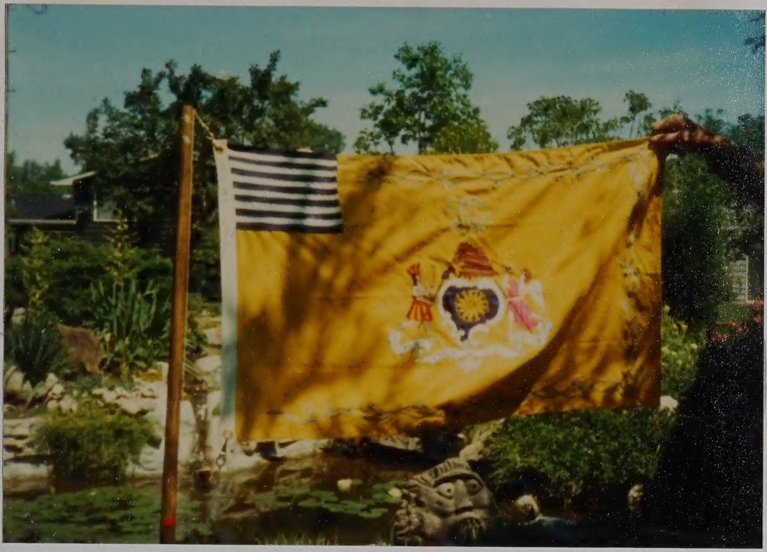
(From the Heritage Flag Shop Book.)



WASHINGTON'S PERSONAL ENSIGN.
AS COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF.
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.
(Variant).

George Washington's personal Ensign as Commander - in - Chief of the Continental Army, was a square flag with a blue field with thirteen six - pointed stars. It is thought to be a possible source of the stars for our National flag. This form of star was used for only a short time, on later flags, but persisted for many years on our country's coins.

Some flag books show Washington's personal flag as being oblong with three rows of stars.



. PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE TROOP.

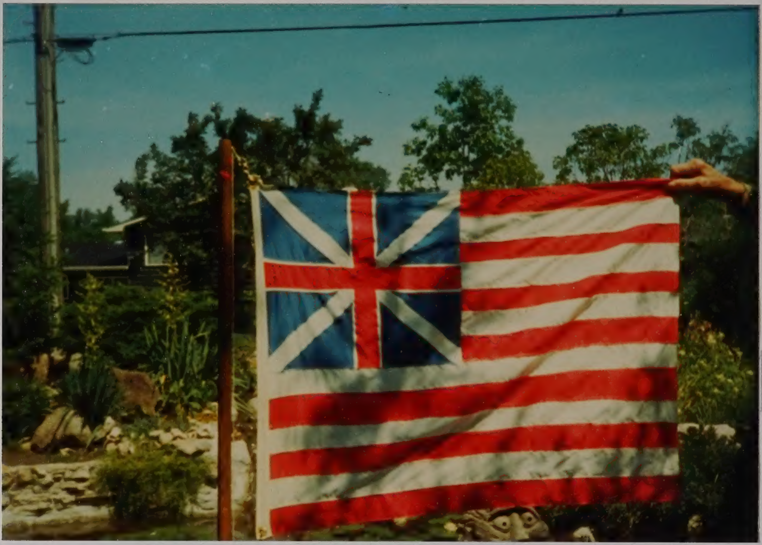
Sept. 1775 to ?

The colors of the First Troop of Light Horse, Philadelphia City Cavalry, which is still preserved in that city. We have the original invoice for the painting of the thirteen blue and silver stripes which form the canton of the flag and thus know that work was done no later than September 1775. But since this troop escorted Washington on the start of his trip from Philadelphia to Cambridge in June of that year, we do not know for certain whether the flag was ever seen by Washington. If he was familiar with the design it might have inspired the Continental Colors which he had hoisted the following January, but neither paint has been proven.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

The Philadelphia Light Horse Flag of 1775, is the earliest known instance of thirteen stripes being used upon an American banner. The flag was presented by Captain Markoe in 1775 to the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse and was carried by the Troop at Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown.

The Philadelphis Light Horse Troop, consisted of twenty - eight patriotic young gentlemen who owned riding horses and fine uniforms. Their yellow flag with the thirteen - painted rosette's in the center and the moto " FOR THESE WE STRIVE," in the canton seven blue and six silver stripes was the first of the Revolutionary flags to have thirteen stripes.



CONTINENTEL COLORS or GRAND UNION.
Unofficial State & National Flag & Ensign.
FIRST UNITED STATES FLAG.
Mid 1775 to September 1777.

The American Revolution, like most revolutions, proceeded in stages, each one charaterized by certain goals and tactics which had developed out of the previous stages Emblems such as Rattlesnake, Liberty Pole, and the Pine Tree characterized the formative years of the Revolution from the first protests in 1765 to the outbreak of actual hostilities in the spring of 1775. They were local symbols having only limited appeal to the nation as a whole and they were conservative symbols which called in the King, Parliament, and Heaven for a preservation or restoration of the rights of Englishmen.

From the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill (April - June 1775) until the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776 there followed a transitional period: Americans were forced to choose sides and to determine just how far they were willing to go in fighting conditions that they felt unjust, while at the same time the British Government faced its last opportunities to make amends or to crush the rebellion decisively. It was at this time that the first (unofficial) National Flag of the United States, the Continental Colors, was born.

On July 3rd. 1775 Washington took command of the Continental Troops on the Common at Cambridge, Just a few miles from Boston. Acting under authority from the Continental Congress, he undertook to transform these irregular forces gathered from many colonies into a unified army. To aid him a committee appointed by Congress and consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Harrison, and Thomas Lynch visited Washington in October. That some concern was raised at this time about a flag is evident from the letter written by Colonel Reed; but there is no proof that the committee of the three actually designed the Continental Colors as some have claimed. We know that on January 1st. 1776 the New Continental Army became official and that to celebrate

Washington had hoisted the Continental Colors " in compliment to the United Colonies." The flag was raised on the Liberty Pole, which formerly flew a red flag, situated on Prospect Hill in nearby Charleston, now part of the city of Somerville. Since Washington's camp was in Cambridge, the flag has often misleadingly been called " The Cambridge Flag." The flag has also been called the " Congress Flag, The Union Flag, The Grand Union Flag, the colors of the United Colonies, and the Flag of the United States."

Belligerent as the steps taken in April and May were, the Colonists were not yet openly rebellious. As late as July 8th., the Continental Congress addresses a petition to King George111 and signed it " Your Majesty's faithful subjects!"

On the day of its birth the Continental Army - the army that was to win the independence for the United States - had its first flag. The banner was not startlingly new. It was merely the British Meteor Flag with siz horizontal white stripes drawn across the red field. Its origin was as uncertain as the times - its designer unknown, its adoption unrecorded, its usage unofficial. The raising of the " GRAND UNION " also bred confusion. The British in Boston mistook the Continental Colors on Prospect Hill for their own army flag. They believed that the hoisting indicated the colonists were ready to submit to the King's latest proclamation of authority over all colonial affairs.

But the true intent behind the GRAND UNION did not long escape the British, particularly on the seas. Late in 1775 the Continental Congress had ordered the outfitting of eight new armed vessels. The new fleet began assembling at Philadelphia under the command of Ezek Hopkins, an aggressive and outspoken sea captain. When warm weather unlocked the frozen Delaware River, Commodore Hopkins sailed out into the Atlantic and in March, 1776 boldly raided New Provodence in the Bahamas. This naval victory netted about a hundred cannon and extensive military stores desperately needed by the poorly equipped Colonial forces. (Assisting in the capture was the first combat contigent of the United States Marine Corps, authorized by the Continental Congress the previous November.)

Many of the original Revolutionary colors continued to fly throughout the war on both land and sea. The added bright touch to what was often drab, disheartening duty for soldier and sailor alike. None of these flags, however, enjoyed the widespread respect accorded the GRAND UNION. Why was this gay emblem never officially approved or formally recognized - so enthusiastically received? Why was it adopted by both the army and the navy in different parts of the country at almost the same time?

The answer seems to be that it was perfectly adopted to the needs of the moment. Although the spirit of insurrection had been in the air for years, many people remained reluctant to take the bold step of open rebellion. They were " still feeding on the dainty food of reconciliation," as Washington phrased it. Yet there was a growing pride in the name " America " and in the strengthening Union of its thirteen Colonies. The GRAND UNION provided just the proper symbolism to represent this amnivalent attitude.

By taking the colors of Great Britain's flags and by using the union device in the canton it illustrated the continuing bond between Colonies and King. At the same time, the flag was distinctive, unique, and representative of the swelling desire for self-government. The GRAND UNION belonged to no special colony, Province, or group. It was an emblem whose symbolism was so catholic as to earn the respect of all - the loyalist and the patriot, the Soldier and the Planter, the defiant and the fearful.

For the first time, then the American Colonists had a flag with Nationalist overtones. It was soon to be hoisted from Massachusetts to Georgia, flying from Forts and Barracks ashore and from masts of naval vessels at sea. Although it was never carried as a battle flag on land, it was intimately linked with the momentous political and military events of the period. It flew in Boston after the British evacuated that city in March of 1776, in New York when Washington occupied Manhattan Island and the Brooklyn Heights in April, and in Philadelphia while the Continental Congress was debating independence.

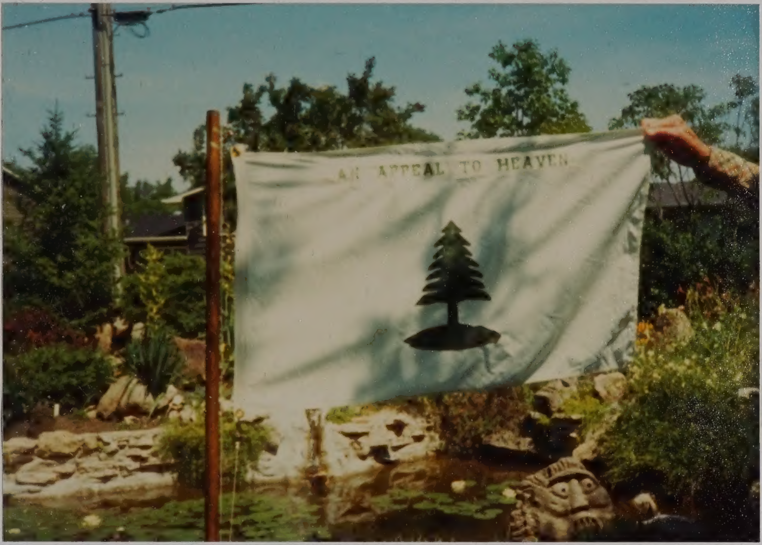
On July 2nd., 1776 when the " Representatives of the United States of America " voted independence from Great Britain, the Continental Congress became the (de facto) government of the new Nation and the GRAND UNION became its proud emblem. But there was true irony in the situation. Even as the Declaration of Independence automatically promoted the GRAND UNION to the statue of a National banner, it rendered the flag obsolete. The political ties with Great Britain were now snapped irrevocably and the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George in the canton of the GRAND UNION became anachronism. They were also an infuriating reminder of oppressive British government - the Stamp Act, the Townshend duties and tea and other imports, the Boston Massacre, the five Intolerable Acts, and now the insulting burden of military occupation. The crosses must go!

The incongruity of the GRAND UNION'S symbolism failed to impress Congress immediately. That body was justly occupied with " Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor " and clould not take up, promptly the question of a substitute banner. It was almost a full year later (June 14., 1777) that the first flag legislation was enacted. Meanwhile the GRAND UNION continued to serve both on land and sea. On July 9th. 1776, at the Battery on Manhatten Island, Washington ordered that his troops be read the Declaration of Independence " With an audible voice." After the reading the GRAND UNION was hoisted over the Commander's headquarters.

In November of 1776 the GRAND UNION FLAG received the first foreign salute accorded an American Flag. This was an eleven gun voley fired by a Dutch West Indies Fort (Fort Orange,) acknowledging a similar salute given by the Andrew Doria, one of Commander Hopkins vessels.

When the GRAND UNION was finally supplanted by the Stars and Stropes its passing was as shadowy as its orign, it is known to have been hoisted as late as August 3rd., 1777, during the British Siege of Fort Schuyler (formerly Fort Stanwix) in New York. No records show when it was last used at sea.

(From Flags of the U.S.A. by David Eggenberger, and Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States."



FLAG OF WASHINGTON'S CRUISERS.

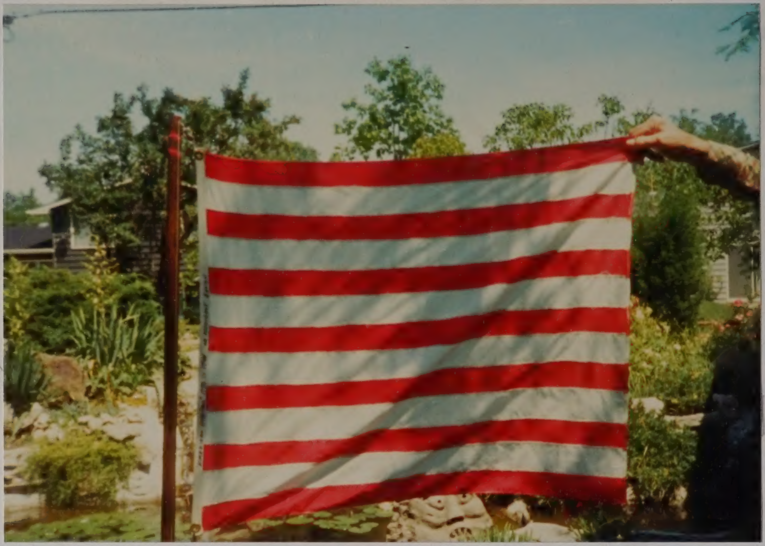
OR

NEW ENGLAND PINE TREE FLAG.

September 1775 to 1777

The most common form of the Pine Tree Flag in use 1775 - 1777 was officially adopted by the Massachusetts Navy in April 1776. The previous September it flew on the floating batteries which sailed down the Charles River to attack British held Boston, and unconfirmed references suggest that ships on the Delaware River also displayed it. On October 20th., 1775 Washington's military secretary, Colonel Joseph Ree, suggested in a letter that this flag be put into general usage so that American vessels might recognize one another, and there is evidence that it was hoisted by the schooners later commissioned by Washington. One of these ships, the LEE commanded by Captain John Manly, is credited with the first American capture of a British vessel when on November 29th., 1775, she defeated the British brig NANCY, with its precious cargo of ammunition. The " LADY WASHINGTON " surrendered the PINE TREE flag when it was captured by the British ship FOWEY, on December 7th., 1775.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



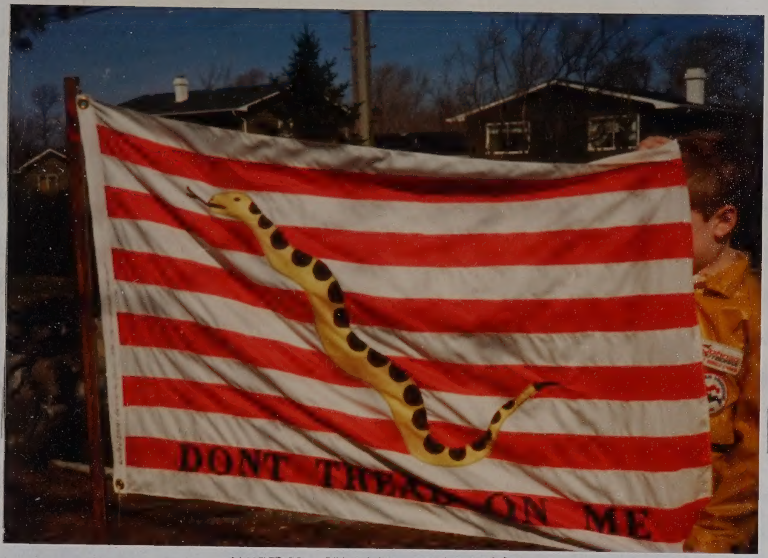
AMERICAN STRIPES or MERCHANT ENSIGN.
UNITED STATES NATIONAL FLAG.
(Unofficial Variant)
C - 1775 to 1800.

American Stripes was a flag of thirteen red and white stripes, 7 red and six white. The flag was used by our Navy ships and all of the American Merchant ships from 1776 to 1800.

Commodore Hopkins fleet varried the AMERICAN STRIPES flag from 1775, It was also used as a Navy Jack and had a serpent stretched diagonally across its field with the moto " DON'T TREAD ON ME." on the bottom white stripe. The serpent and moto was dis - continued after the Revolutionary War.

The flag may possibly have served this function, but contemporary pictures and descriptions suggest that it was a variation of the United States navel Ensign. Sometimes the white field had six red stripes, sometimes thirteen.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

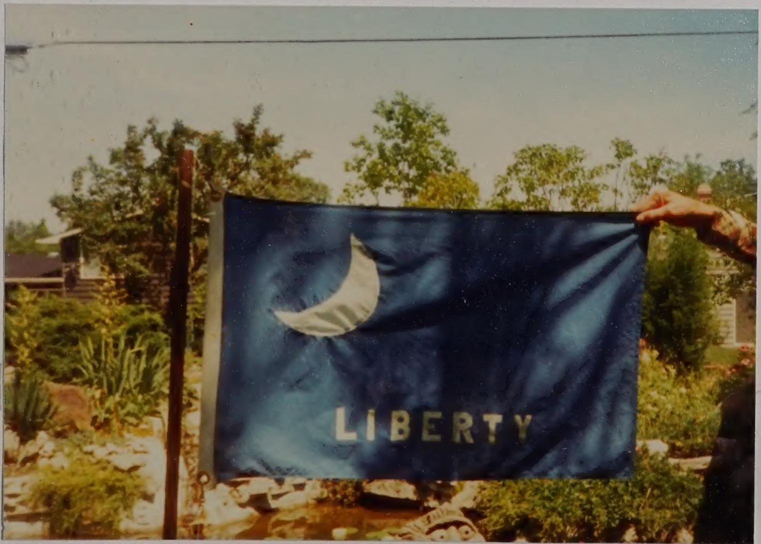


UNITED STATES NAVY JACK
Unofficial Variant.
1775 to 1776.

This flag design was made in two forms, one with white and red stripes, the other with red and white stripes, in each design the flag had thirteen stripes, across the flag a Serpent stretched from the upper left down to the lower right. On the red and white design the matto " DON'T TREAD ON ME " was on the bottom white stripe, on the white and red stripe design the matto " DONT TREAD ON ME " followed the curve of the serpent. These two designs were our first Naval Jacks.

The South Caralina Navy also used this design. Their flag had red and blue stripes and the matto " DON'T TREAD ON ME " was on the second red stripe.

(From Whitnet Smith " The Flag Book of the United States and Flags of the U.S.A. by David Eggenberger.)



FORT MOULTRIE FLAG. (SOUTH CAROLINA.)

Unofficial 9 - 13 - 1775 to 1777.

The most famous of the flags in the south when the American Revolution broke out was the FORT MOULTRIE Flag.

When the Revolution broke out two regiments were formed in South Carolina, their uniforms being blue and their cap badges silver cresents inscribed " LIBERTY or DEATH. " On September 13., 1775 Fort Jackson was taken by these troops and Colonel William Moultrie made a flag for the fort which bore a white cresent in the upper left corner of the blue field. The next spring the same flag with the inscription " LIBERTY " in white was displayed over the unnamed fort on Sullivan's Island in Charleston Harbor. During the British attack on this fort on June 28th., 1776, according to tradition, Sergent William Jasper saved the flag when it fell and, braving the fire from the British ships, attached the flag to a sponge staff and planted it where it could be seen. The successful defence of the fort, named FORT MOULTRIE for its Commander, and the rescue of the flag both served to establish this design as the unofficial South Carolina flag.

(From Whitney " The Flag Book of the United States.)

A third variant of this flag has the word " LIBERTY " in the white cresent, of the flag.

South Carolina was an Independent Republic during the American Revolution, 1776 - 1783. Edward Rutledge was the President as well as one of the signers of the Declaration og Independence.

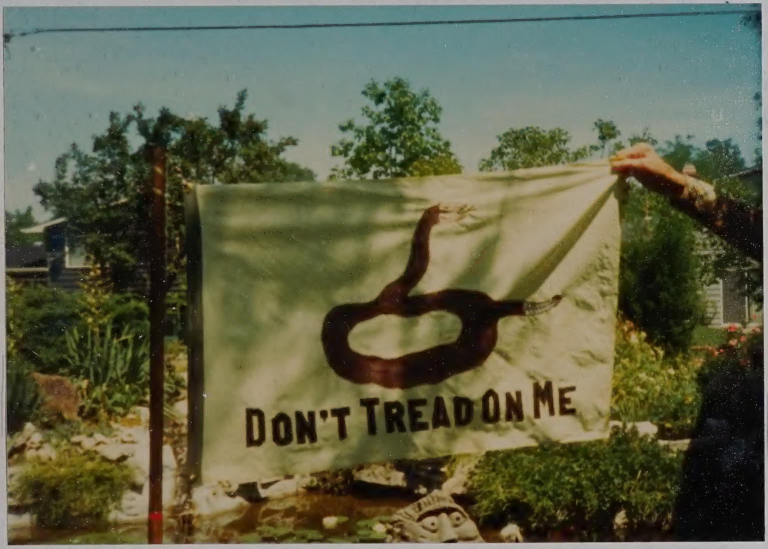
THE CULPEPER MINUTE MEN
LIBERTY
OR DEATH
DONT TREAD ON ME

CULPEPER COUNTY, VIRGINIA MINUTEMEN.

C - 1775 to 1779.

Culpeper County, Virginia, was a Revolutionary War center and its minutemen flew this flag. The Rattlesnake device occurs on several Revolutionary War flags. The Rattlesnake's eye brighter than any other creature's and with no eyelids, is the emblem of vigilance. The snake never begins an attack, but once aroused it never surrenders. Propably the deadly bite of the Rattlesnake was also considered. The snake was often protrayed with thirteen rattles, symbalic of the thirteen Colonies.

(From Flags of all Nations reprint 1953 Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia.)



COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF'S FLAG.

UNITED STATES NAVY.

12 - 3 - 1775 to 1778.

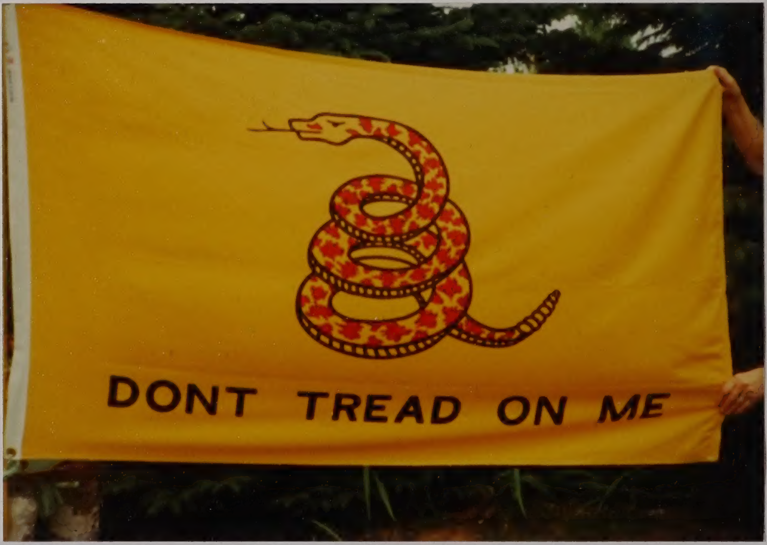
Until the creation of the first United States Flag, the **CONTINENTAL COLORS** or GRAND UNION FLAG of 1775 - 1778, a number of symbols competed for the loyalty of the Colonists. The earlist such emblem seems to have been the snake which first appears in Benjamin Franklin' PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE on May 9th., 1754, just before the ALBANY CONGRESS of that year. The Congress discussed a treaty with the Indians and the possibility of a union of colonies. This snake, cut into pieces to represent the dis-united Colonies, recurs next November 1765, just before the STAMP ACT went into effect. The third and final use of the snake in newspapers extended from June 1774 until August 1776.

It was during this latter period that the first snake flags were used, although unfortunately we cannot date any of them exactly. Three such flags still exists; one in the canton of the fifty - second Independent Battalion (The so called Westmoreland

County or Proctor's Battalion,) which was one of the Pennsylvania volunteer units known as Associators. The other flags are from Rhode Island - - the color of the United Company of the train of Artillery, an independent chartered company from Providence, and the flag carried in 1778 during General Sullivan's seige of Newport. These all bore a coiled Rattlesnake and the motto " DON'T TREAD ON ME " indicating a change from the previous period of disunity to a new era of defiance. A similar flag, of which no example remains, was flown in early 1776 as the rank flag of the Commander - in - Chief of the fleet, a position held by Commodore Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island.

Because Colonel Christopher Gadsden presented a copy of this flag to the Provincial Congress of The Republic of **SOUTH CAROLINA**, , it has often, , falsely, , been called the GADSDEN FLAG, or the Flag of the SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY. It is also often shown as having a coiled Rattlesnake of three coils and the head of the snake facing the staff instead of away.

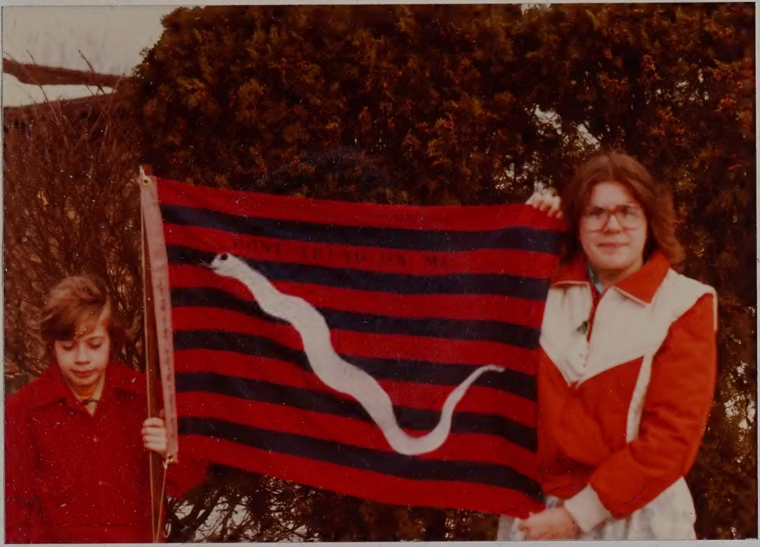
(From Whitney Smith The Flag Book of the United States.)



SOUTH CAROLINA FLAG.
or GADSDEN FLAG
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

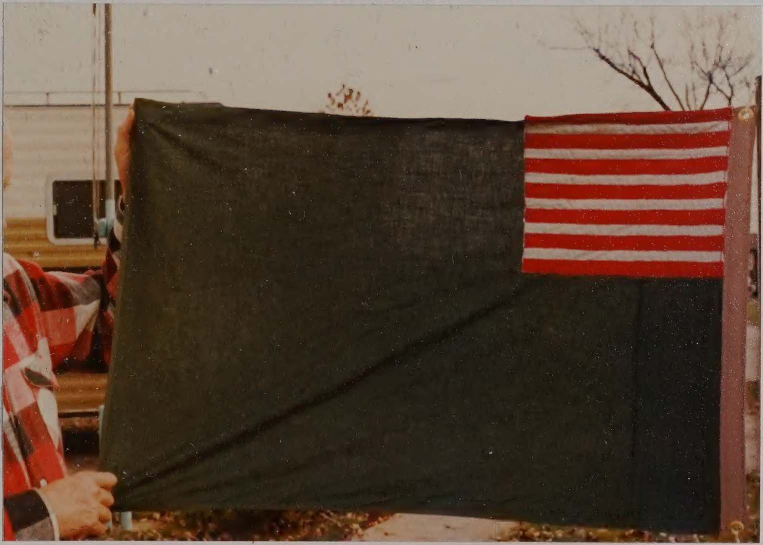
When Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina saw the flag of Commander Eszk Hopkins flag as Commander - in - Chief of the Continental Navy he was so impressed with the design he requested Commodore Ezek Hopkins to give him a copy that he could present to the legislature of his home colony. As a result it was adopted by South Carolina for their Navy and thus is often called the Gadsden or South Carolina Navy Flag.

The Rattlesnake in the Gadsden flag faces the staff and it has red diamonds in the body, while Hopkins flag has the Rattlesnake in dark brown and faces away from the staff. (From Whitney Smith The Flag Book of the United States.)



SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY JACK
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

A variant of the **Continental** Navy Jack. The flag has seven red and six blue stripes with a serpent stretched from the upper left hand down to the lower right hand. The moto " DON'T TREAD ON ME " was on the second red stripe in black.



DELAWARE MILITIA FLAG
or
DANSEY REGIMENT COLOR
C - 1776

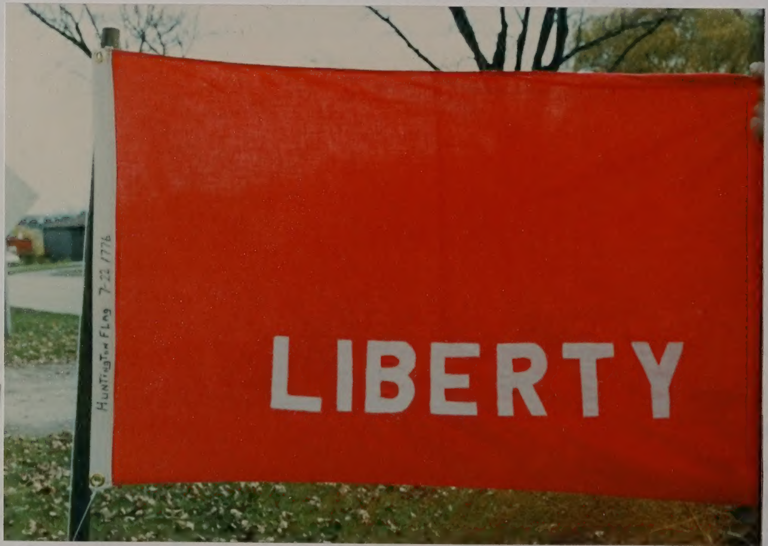
On October 9th., 1777 British Army Captain William Dansey **wrote to his mother from his encampment** at Germantown, Pennsylvania. " I must tell you a piece of good luck I had a few days before the battle of Brandywine. On a flanking party I took the horse, arms, colors and drums belonging to a rebel Colonel of the Delaware Militia... which the General very politely sent back again but the horse, arms and colors came to my share, the latter I hope to bring as a trophy to Brinsop."

Captain Dansey did take his " trophy " to England, and the flag remained in his home until 1926. At that time, the flag and some of the Captain's letters were purchased by the Historical Society of Delaware. Today the flag, which has come to be known as the Dansey Regiment Color, hangs in the Old Town Hall in Wilmington, Del.

Although the flag is now rust - colored, it was originally green, a color that probably corresponded to the uniform of the Delaware Militia. The flag's canton. bearing 13 alternating red and white stripes was inspired by the field of the National flag. This was in accord with English tradition, for the British regimental colors were based on the design of the Union Jack.

The Delaware Militia served with distinction throughout the Revolution. Delaware light infantry under the command of General William Maxwell occupied a key defensive position in 1777 when General William Howe's powerful army was advancing toward Philadelphia. In the only Revolutionary battle fought on Delaware soil, Maxwell's troops had a sharp skirmish, with Howe's forces at the Battle of Coach's Bridge before falling back with heavy casualties.

One regiment of militia, known as the Delaware Line, earned a reputation as one of the crack regulars in the Continental Army. After fighting in several engagements, the regiment was reduced from 500 to 175 men in battle at Camden, New Jersey. Even so, the distinguished unit continued to serve as an independent company and was still actively engaged in battle as late as August 1781 at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.

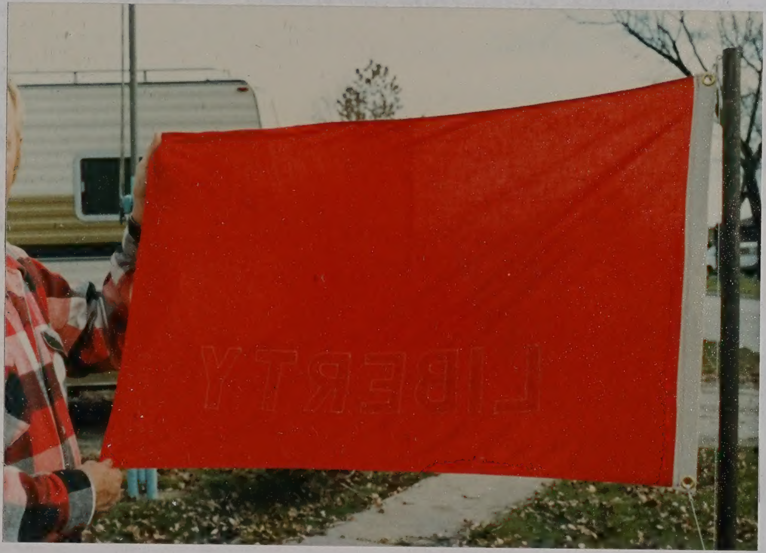


HUNTINGTON FLAG.

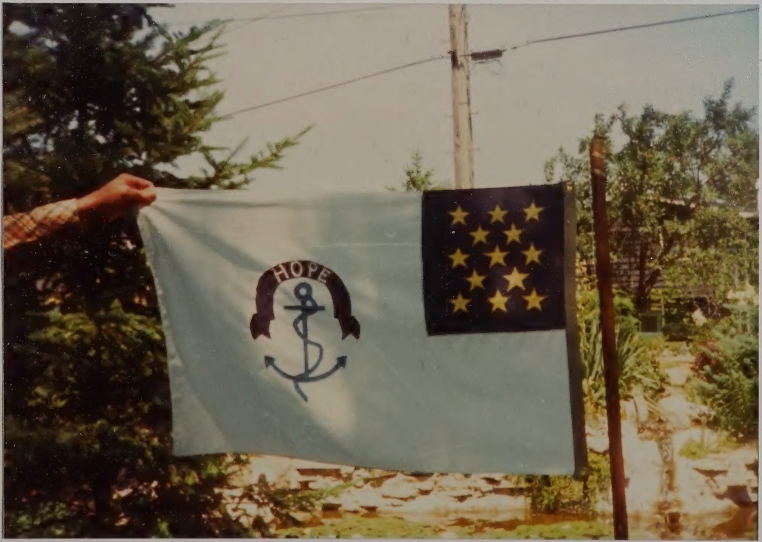
(Obverse)

C-7-22-1776 to ?

After the reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Common on July 22. the people of Huntington removed the King's name from the reverse of their flag and burned it along with him in effigy. This red flag with the word LIBERTY was the flag of troops from Huntington for the duration of the American Revolution.



(Reverse)

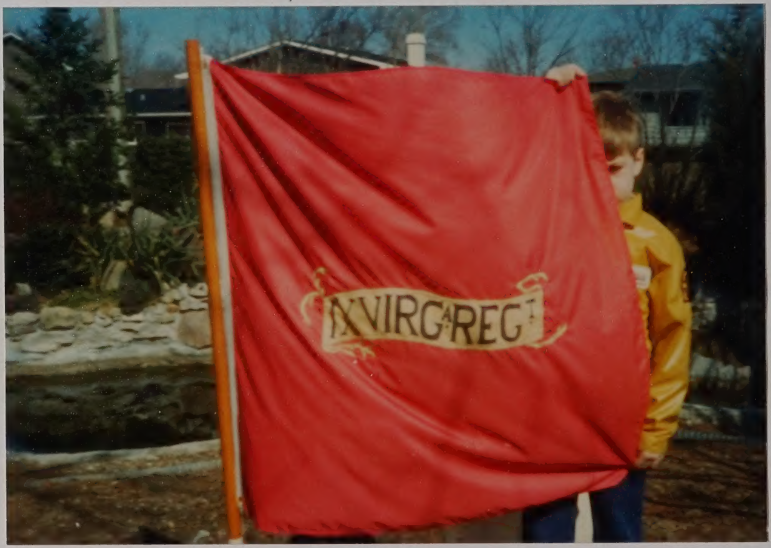


RHODE ISLAND FLAG.
2nd. REGEMENT.
C - 1776 - 1781

The earliest Rhode Island flags of which we have any record are the Company Colors. In a campaign in 1746 in Canada, Rhode Island troops were designated by a blue signal flag with a white ball. During the Revolutionary War the first and Second Regiments flew white flags with blue cantons. The First Regiment had its unit designation on a Blue Ribbon in the field and thirteen white stars in the canton. The Second Regiment color had gold stars and a Blue Anchor and ribbon in the center. The stars in the flag of the Second Regiment are often incorrectly shown as white.

Rhode Island first and Second Regiment flags were the first known to have the blue canton with the thirteen stars.

(From Whitney Smith The Flag Book of the United States.)



NINTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT FLAG.
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

At this time little is known about the Ninth Virginia Regiment. Their flag was a Cornette.

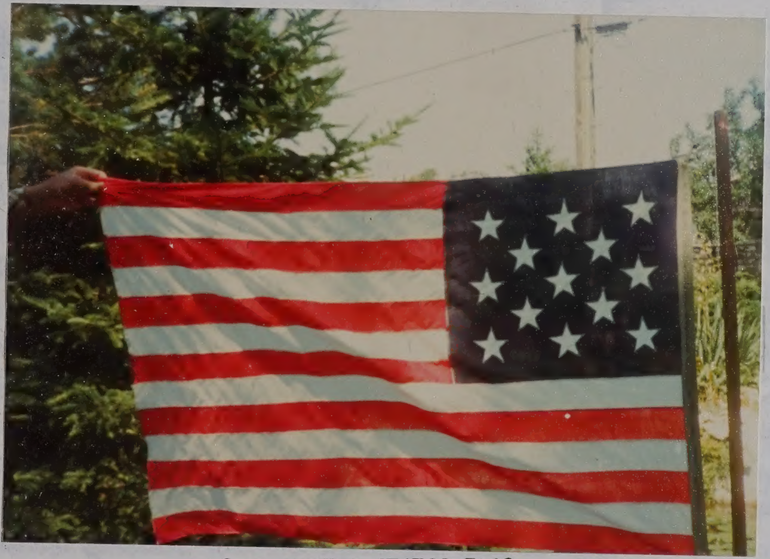
* REPUBLIC OF NEW CONNECTICUT.

1 - 15 - 1777 to 3 - 4 - 1791.

Flag design unknown

New Conneciticut was not one of the thirteen original colonies on States, because its territory was claimed by New York and New Hampshire, so on January 15th., 1777 a convention proclaimed the Independence of New Conneciticut. Never the less men from the green mountain state fought against the British in the American Revolution and some of them carried the first known example of the STARS and STRIPES. Since 1963 this battle flag called the Bennington Battle Flag has been officially hoisted at the State House on the fifteenth through the seventeenth of August in commemoration of the victory over the British in the Battle at Bennington, Vermont. New Conneciticut changed its name to Vermont on June 4th., 1777, and continued as a Republic until March 4th., 1791.

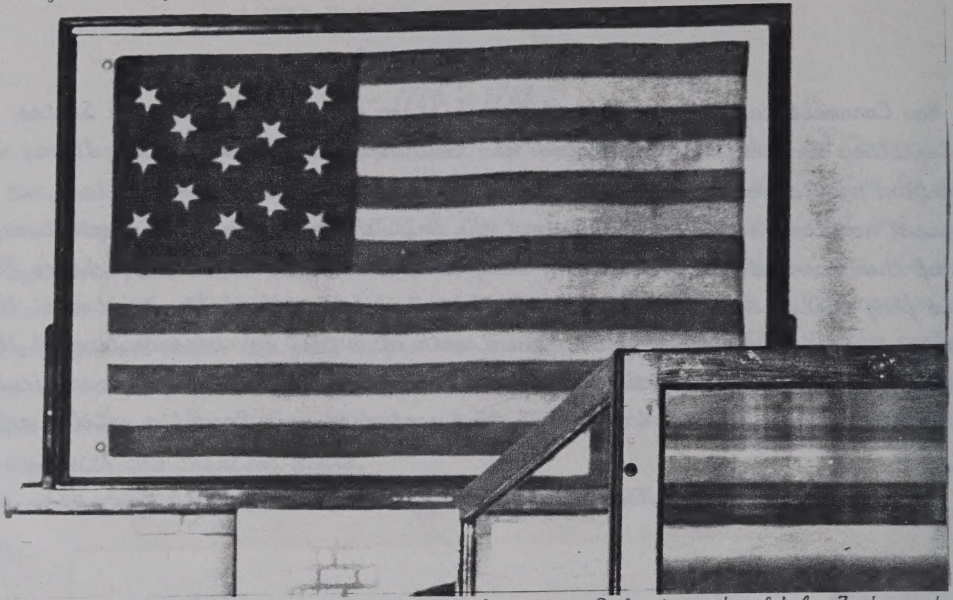
(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



2nd. UNITED STATES FLAG.
1st. STARS AND STRIPES.
USUAL VARIANT (NAVY)
STATE & NATIONAL FLAG; ENSIGN.

The colored illustration above of an original 13 Star American Flag used by the United States Navy. The stars are arranged in staggared formation in alternate rows of three and two stars on a blue field. A close inspection will show the Cross of St. George (+) and then the Cross of St. Andrew (⨯) of the English flag. The Colonists were unable to break away from the British flag under which they were born. The original flag in black & white below is located at Fort Sherida, in Illinois.

Photo of original flag at Fort Sheridan by Herb Outten.



By the summer of 1776 the view that the American Colonies should be Independent, an idea previously held only be a minority, had become more generally accepted. On July 2nd., a simple motion was accepted in Congress declaring Independence, followed two days later by a public proclamation. In retrospect this event is seen as a turning point in the fate of the continent, and indeed of the world. At the same time its impact on the actual course of the war with the British was slight; European powers still awaited a decisive victory like Saratoga before committing themselves to the rebel cause. Certainly the immediate formal changes in National symbols such as flags, arms, uniforms, and coins which newly independent nations today universally make were absent in America. Even the change in the name from UNITED COLONIES to UNITED STATES did not take place until two months after the Declaration of Independence. As in the case of procuring military colors, the leaders of the Revolution were too busy most of the time to concern themselves with any except the most pressing matters of business.

It is not surprising that Congress took no action with regard to a new flag when the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed. Although on that first Fourth of July it did establish a committee to look into an appropriate seal, Congress apparently felt that the Continental Colors adequately served the few commissioned ships in the American Navy. William Richards, who kept naval stores in Philadelphia and was immediately involved in the supplying of flags, did not agree. We find letters he wrote to the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, dated in August and October of 1776, complaining that he could not provide the galleys in the Delaware River with flags until a design was established. It may be Navy men were already protesting the retention of the Union Jack in the flag of a Nation which claimed to be independent.

It may be that Richards hesitated to invest in flags of one design for fear that another would be favored by the Authorities.

In any event the next spring Richards finannly got some flags (of unspecified design), as attested by a note dated May 29. 1777 in the minutes of the Pennsylvania State Navav Board, recording payment " to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds, twelve shillings, and two pence, for making ship's colours." At least one other demand for flags also arose at this time. On June 3rd., 1777 the President of the Continental Congress presented that body with three pieces of Wampum which he had received from Thomas Green, an Indian, with a request " That a Flag of the United States might be delivered to him to take to the Chiefs of the Nation, to be used by them for their security and protection, when they may have occasion to visit us their brethern."

Whether these requests by Richards and Green were responsible for the adoption of the new flag or not, we do know that Congress finally took its first official action on this question on Saturday, June 14th., 1777. From the Journal of Congress it is evident that the largely routine business of that day's session was within the sphere of the Marine Committee: for example, directions are sought regarding the fleet in the Delaware in case of British attack, and John Paul Jones is appointed as Captain of the Ranger. In between, without a word of comment or explanation, is the terse resolve that " The Flag Of The United States Be 13 Stripes Alternate Red And White, And The Union Be 13 Stars White In A Blue Field Representing A New Constellation."

Notice of this new design was slow in becoming publicly known. There are a few individual references in July and August, but the Pennsylvania Evening Post of August 30th., 1777 seems to be the first newspaper to have printed the text of the law. We still find the Continental Colors being flown in August of 1777 - on the General Mifflin commanded by Captain William McNeil when it was saluted off Brest, France, and over Fort Schuyler, New York, during a British siege, Gradually the news spread and the Union Jack in the old Continental Colors gave way to the first official flag of the United States, the Stars and Stripes. The new flag, like the old one, was used as a National flag during holidays and celebrations and as a State Flag on Public Buildings and Forts. At sea it served as the Ensign for Men - of - War, Privateers, and Merchantmen, although there is some evidence to suggest that the latter sometimes used the flag of thirteen stripes.

The thirteen Star, thirteen Stripe Flag, which continued to fly throughout the rest of the War for Independence and until 1795 when the present Constitution and form of government was securely established, saw a number of "Firsts." There is some reason to believe that it flew in Philadelphia on the 4th., of July 1777 when the first anniversary of American Independence was celebrated. John Paul Jones carried a version of this flag with him to France and on February 14th., 1778 induced the French Admiral, La Motte Piquet, to render the third salute ever given to an American Flag and the first to the

Stars and Stripes. He brought further glory to the Stars and Stripes by his capture of the British sloop DRAKE in April 1778 and, a year later, by his heroic defeat of the British Frigate SERAPHIS. The merchantman Columbia was the first ship to bear this flag around the world, in a voyage which began in Boston in September 1787 and ended in that city three years and 42,000 miles later.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States."

As we have seen the charter of the Stars and Stripes was enacted in one brief resolution, unattended by a single word of introduction or explanation. The reason for the change, however, seems clear enough, although Congress never formally adopted the GRAND UNION FLAG, its members knew about it, and in all probability they now acted in the light of this knowledge. The banner had been created by adding six white stripes to the field of England's Red Meteor Flag. Now Congress merely removed the obnoxious crosses of St. George and St. Andrew from the first canton and replaced them with " Thirteen Stars, white on a blue field, representing a new Constellation."Union of thirteen Colonies was thereby doubly signified: once by the thirteen red and white stripes of the GRAND UNION FLAG, and again by the thirteen Stars now added to the blue field, slight as this change was, it expressed a tremendous fact symbolically, advertising to the world the resolution voted by Congress a year earlier." That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States."

Another consideration, clearly apparent in the resolution of June 14th., demands our attention. This gives no detail description of the new flag, and until some authority provided one, every seamstress who might undertake to make a banner would naturally feel free to follow her own fancy, if not that of her employer, in designing it. Such questions as the proportions of the flag, the size of the Union or Canton, and the design and arrangement of the Stars on their blue field were all left hanging in the air. Nor were these questions officially answered for almost a century and a half after 1777, thus affording room for widely varying interpretations of details in the design of the Stars and Stripes, especially with regard to the Stars. It is possible that the vertical Stripes in our Custom Flag may also derive from the whim of some early flag maker.

Still another consideration concerns the use which Congress intended should be made of the flag. It will be recalled that the Flag Resolution of June 14th., 1777, was proceded and followed by other actions dealing with routine naval activities referred to Congress by its Marine Committee. As was the custom of Great Britain, from which so much of American procedure follows, the GRAND UNION FLAG had been used at sea and over fixed Fortresses on land. In like manner its successor, the Stars and Stripes, seems to have been designed for use as a Marine Flag, not for a Battle Flag on land.

Although the resolution creating the flag was adopted on June 14th., weeks passed before it was noticed in the press. Finally it was printed on September 2nd., 1777, in DUNLAP'S PENNSYLVANIA-PACKET, or THE GENERAL ADVERTISER, in a column reporting various proceedings of Congress. By the middle of that month, new of the resolution had been carried to Boston where it was published in the BOSTON GAZETTE on the 15th., and in the MASSACHUSETTS SPY three days later.

In this simple chronology lies the refutation of many statements found in books dealing with the history of the flag concerning early use of the Stars and Stripes in land battles of the Revolutionary War. The fact is that to the very end of the Revolutionary War the Stars and Stripes was neither officially supplied to the Continental Army by Congress; nor was it intended to be used in land battles. It seemed to be designed for use as a Marine Flag.

On February 20th., 1776, an order was issued permitting Colonels of American Regiments and certain others " To fix any such (colors) as they could procure and might deem proper." This was more than a year before adoption of the flag Resolution of June 14., 1777, and it indicates that neither General Washington nor Congress had given consideration to using the GRAND UNION FLAG in land battles. Indeed, it was more than three years after that resolution was passed that the Commander - in Chief and the Board of War took up, as if for the first time, the question of what design the Continental Army Flags should have.

Richard Peters, Secretary of the Board, wrote to Washington on May 10th., 1779: The Board have been frequently applied to on the subject of Drums and Colors for the several Regiments. It is impossible to comply with all the requisitions for these articles as we have not materials to make either in sufficient numbers. We hope however to have in a short time a competent number of drums... as to colors, we have refused them for another reason. The Baron Steuben mentioned when he was here that he would settle with your Excellency some plan as to the colors. It was intended that every Regiment should have two colors - one the Standard of the United States, which should be the same throughout the Army, and the other a Regimental Color which should vary according to the facings of the Regiment. But it is not yet settled what is the Standard of the United States. If your Excellency will therefore favor us with your opinion on the subject we will report to Congress and request them to establish a Standard and as soon as this is done we will endeavour to get materials and order a number made sufficient for the Army. Neither can we tell what should be the Regimental Colors as Uniforms were by a late Resolution of Congress to be settled by your Excellency.

So we see that almost two years after the Flag Resolution of June 14th., 1777, Congress had neither supplied the Continental Army with flags nor had it even decided on their design. As in the armies of England and France, however. each Regiment was to carry two colors, one its Regimental Flag, and the other the National Standard. And since the letter quoted indicates that the " Standard of the United States" had not yet been settled upon, it seems clear that this was not intended to be the Stars and Stripes.

On May 14th.,1779,-Washington replied to the Board of War that " The arrangement respecting Colors " had not yet been made. Nor was there any dicision on this point up to September 3rd., following, when we find Secretary Peters sending the General drafts of an Army Standard for his " Approbation, Rejection, or Alteration." His letter added: " The one with the Union and Emblem in the middle is preferred by us as being variant from the Marine Flag."

This " Marine Flag," it can safely be assumed, was the Stars and Stripes, and Peter's letter discloses that the Board of War desired an entirely different banner for the Continental Army. Replying on September 14th., Washington agreed with the Board in favoring a standard having " The Union and Emblem in the middle," but he further stated that the Regimental number and the name of the State to which it belonged ought to be inserted " within the curve of the Serpent." Unfortunately, no copy of the proposed design has been preserved, and we have no definite knowledge of what it was. The seal adopted by the War Office in 1778, and still in use, show, two flags, one the Stars and Stripes with a rectangular arrangement of Stars on the field of the Union, the other (apparently a Regimental flag) plain and without design of any kind. Above is a curved Rattlesnake with the motto " THIS WE'LL DEFEND," surrounded by its folds. It is a matter of speculation whether this seal reproduces the Flag design which Washington and the Board were discussing.

In any event, nothing came of this exchange of ideas, for late in February, 1780, in responce to Washington's complaint of a great dificiency of Drums, Fifes, and Standards, Peter's replied;

> As many colors as possible shall be provided, but until we receive the articles from France... we cannot have the standards prepared agreeably to the plan proposed, viz, to have two for every Regiment, one the Standard of the United States, and the other the Regimental Color, the ground whereof to be the color of the facing. The Regiments must shift with what colors can now be given them until the arrival of our expected supplies.

Washington answered this communication on March 6th., 1780, expressing his "great pleasure" over the prospect of receiving the promised supplies. But he was doomed to still further disappointment. More than two years later, on August 6th., 1782, we find him writing from Newburgh that he " could wish" the colors might be sent to him soon, having been informed that they were already purchased.

" The Colors are ready and will be immediatly sent - as also the Drums and Fifes as fast as they can be obtained," General Lincoln wrote hopefully for the Board of War on August 8th., seven months later, On March 1sr.,1793, the patient Commander-in-Chief was finally told by the Board od War that " The Standards are in the hands of the Quarter - Master.. and have been there for some time." So the Flags had come at last! Replying on March 11th., Washington stated that he had in fact found the Standards in possession of the Military Storekeeper, but noted that Lincoln's letter of March 1st., afforded him the first notice that they were near him.

Ironically, the flags were no longer needed, The Revolutionary War had ended, for all practical purposes, a year and a half earlier at Yorktown, and to complete this story of frustration, we have no record either of what was done with these long - sought Standards or the design they bore.

(From the History of the United States Flag by Melvin J Weig, Milo M. Quaife and Roy A Appleman.)

Exactly how the Marine Committee arrived at its flag report is unknown, and probably unknowable, today. It was, however, the natural agency to spearhead the adoption of a national ensign. Navies have always taken the lead in flag matters. At sea a flag has long been a quick and positive means of identification. A ship without a national ensign is liable to a charge of piracy. Moreover, the infant United States Navy was probably more continental in organization and viewpoint than any other arm of the government, and thus more conscious of a need for a national banner.

What was this Marine Committee whose report resulted in the Congressional resolution adopting the Stars and Stripes? It was an executive body created by the Congress on December 11.,1775, to handle the naval affairs of the Colonies. Three days after its formation one member from each province was appointed to serve on the Committee. It functioned until December, 1779, when it was replaced by a five - man Board of Admiralty.

One of the committee's big problems was to get enough members together to transact necessary business. Rarely did a majority of its members attend committee meetings. Finally, on June 6.,1777, the Congress authorized a legal quorum of five members. The committee also suffered from frequent changes in personnel,in part unavoidable because of changes in the membership of the Congress itself.The existing records of the Committee are so fragmentary that it is impossible to determine the members of the Committee in attendance when the report on the flag was formulated. The number might have varied from the necessary quorum of five up to thirteen.

According to the Journals of the Congress the members of the Committee on June 14th., were: Nathan Browson (Georgia); Thomas Burke (North Carolina); Abraham Clark (New Jersey); John Hancock (Massachusetts); who served as president of the Committee as well as president of the Congress; Richard Henry Lee (Virginia); Philip Livingston (New York); Henry Merchant (Rhode Island); Arthur Middleton (South Carolina); Robert Morris (Pennsylvania); Roger Sherman (Connecticut); William Smith (Maryland); Nicholas Van Dyke (Delaware); and William Whipple (New Hampshire).

From these men, came the impetus that led to the adoption of the first official flag of the United States. Their contribution lacked the charm and glamour that so many writers have insisted must be part of the flag's origin. These men were simple practical legislators and executives, intent upon nothing more romantic than waging a war for independence of a newborn nation.

(From Flags of the U.S.A. by David Eggenberger.)

Following Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton the Continental Congress returned th Philadelphia in the spring of 1777. The situation remained grim at best. Sir William Howe's forces occupied New York City less than a hundred miles away. Between the legislators and the enemy army were General Washington('s Continentals, as usual poorly equipped and badly outnumbered. While both sides maneuvered for advantage in New Jersey the Congress continued to meet in the Statehouse (now called Independence Hall), discharging all the duties that fell upon a single operating branch of government.

Much of the Congress' work consisted of a wearying attentiveness to minor detail and petty routine. It was with the aim of disposing just such small matters that the members assembled June 14, 1777. A large share of the business transacted that day was taken care of by simple resolutions not requiring discussion or debate. For example one resolution appropriated various sums to three Army captains "for the use of their respective independent companies." Another took steps to aid New Yorkers " immediately distresses for want of salt."

Several resolutions stemmed from recommendations of the Marine Committee:

> RESOLVED, That the Marine Committee be impowered to give such directions respecting the Continental ships of war in the river Delaware as they think proper in case the enemy succeed in their attempts on said river.
>
> The Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay having represented by letter to the president of Congress that Captain John Roach, some time since appointed to command the Continental ship of war RANGER, is a person of doubtful character and ought not to be entrusted with such a command; therefore
>
> RESOLVED, That Captain John Roach be suspended until the Navy Board for the eastern department shall have enquired fully into his character and report thereon to the Marine Committee.*
>
> RESOLVED, That Captain John Paul Jones be appointed to command the said ship RANGER.

Sandwiched among these transient decisions was one lasting significance:

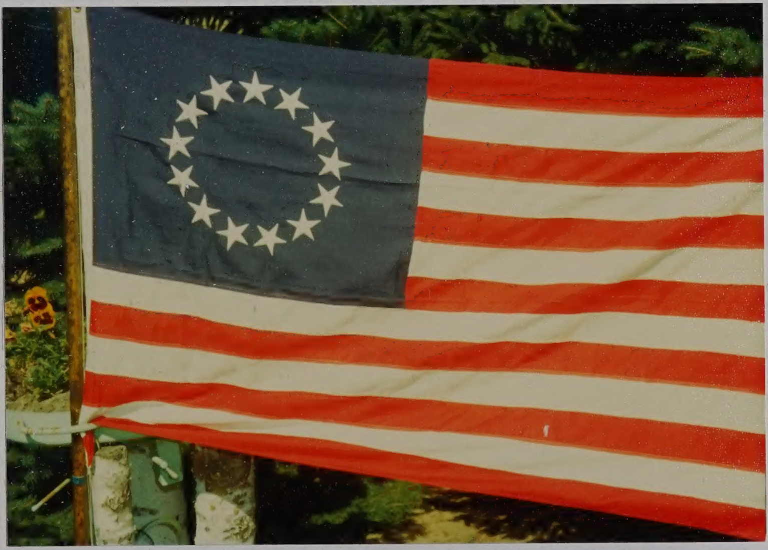
> RESOLVED, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

At last the new United States had a National Flag, officially designed and formally adopted. And it was a flag that all the people could take to their hearts, for each State was doubly represented - by a stripe and a Star - and the Union of the States was doubly signified in the field and canton.

This simple, direct resolution was the beginning, the middle, and the end of Congressional information concerning the original flag law. It is unfortunate that the Congress chose to be so terse in passing this legislation. A vote of thanks to the designer, an appropriation for services rendered, or even an indirect reference to some individual would have spotlighted the orign of the flag and left no doubt in the minds of future generations. But such was not the case and today the first flag law stands stark and isolated among the annuals of the time. Among other contemporary records - official, semi - official, and private there is nothing to reveal or even hint at what provided the basis of the resolution.

* Either Massachusetts or the Congress was badly confused here, John Roach had never been appointed to such a command and was in fact not even an officer in the Continental Navy!

(From Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



2nd. UNITED STATES FLAG.
1st. STARS AND STRIPES
STATE & NATIONAL FLAG; ENSIGN
INFREQUENT VARIANT
6 - 14 - 1777 to 4 - 30 - 1795.

THE MAKING OF A LEGEND.

The lack of documentation regarding the First Flag Law has produced an interesting development, unforeseen in 1777 and for that matter unforseen during the life - time of the Revolutionary fathers. In later years historical speculators have seized upon the absence of records and clear - cut evidence to construct their own theories of origin before June 14th., 1777. As a result, today there exists a whole series of stories, each revealing the " true " beginning of the Stars and Stripes. The pattern of construction is much the same in each - an actual Revolutionary figure, one or several indisputable points of historical referebce and then a quick conclusion based upon inferences and deductions that often recklessly misuse established data. Most of these stories grew out of strong ancestral devotion or a superabundance of local pride. Seldom have the creating motives been selfish reasons or commercial gain.

The most prominent theories of flag origin are those built around Betsy Ross, John Hulbert, George Washington, Francis Hopkinson, the town of Easton, Pennsylvania, John Paul Jones, Abram Markoe, and the Rhode Island Flags. These theories are of course mutually contradictory. In general they are also overly romantic, incapable of proof, and unconvincing in one or more vital points.

By far the best known claim for the origin of the Stars and Stripes is the Betsy Ross story. This account strikes such a warm and appealing note that it has survived through the years despite the seemingly mortal blows repeatedly dealt it by distinguished researchers, scholars, and historians.

The Betsy Ross story relates that in May or June of 1776 George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross were appointed to a committee charged with designing a national flag. Washington is reputed to have prepared a design which was then taken to the Philadelphia home of Elizabeth Ross, widow of committeeman Ross's nephew, John. Mrs Ross an expert seamstress, made a flag from this sketch, changing only the number of points on each star from six to five. The stars themselves are said to have been placed in a circle in the blue canton.(One version goes back to King Arthur's Round Table as a source for this arrangement!) The story concludes abruptly with Washington personally showing the flag to the " greatful " Congress.

Now it is true that the Commander in chief did spend May 23 to June 5 in Philadelphia. He had been summoned to the city by the Congress for urgent conferences on the operations of the Army. The grave military weaknesses of the Colonies plus the growing agitation for independence left Washington little time to meditate or work on such secondary problems as the creation of a national ensign. Nor do the detailed Journals of the Continental Congress even hint at the formation of a flag committee or a report from such a group - and the reporting member was supposedly George Washington, the most respected military figure on the continent, whose every word and action received the closest attention.

The Betsy Ross story first came to light in 1870 in a paper read by her grandson, William J. Canby, before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This paper was based on conversations Canby said he had with his maternal grandmother prior to her death in 1836, when he was eleven years old and Mrs. Ross eighty - four. According to

Canby, his recollections of the conversations, plus supplementary information from his mother's generation, were written down in 1857 and published thirteen years later - a total of nineth - four years after the related flag - making event took place. To support his claim, Canby secured affidavits from several local residents, all interested parties, well advanced in age, who were likewise relying upon memory and hearsay to recall something in the distant past. In point of time, the affidavits were secured AFTER the Canby paper was prepared.

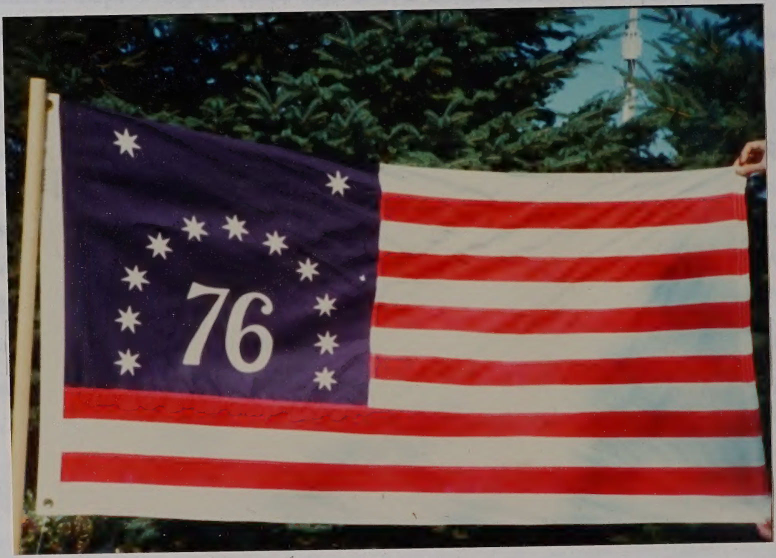
Canby's story quickly gained circulation in contemporary newspapers, magazines, and books. As it spread, other bits of " evidence " accumulated. In 1879 a Boston paper published an alleged picture of Betsy Ross which was widely copied. It was pure artistic license for no pictures or other likenesses were ever made of the seamstress. Eight years later the " Flag House " itself was " located " at 239 Arch Streetm Philadelphiam although there was no proof Mrs. Ross ever lived there and much valid evidence that she did not. Later the residence was variously fixed at numbers 233, 235, and 241, all on Arch Street. By now, however, the Canby - Ross tale had been repeated so often and had acquired so many roots that it defied challenge even in part. This despite the repeated discrediting of supporting evidence as contradictory, confused, and uncorrobororated.

The grand total of provable facts in the Betsy Ross legend are: (1) the Betsy Ross was a patriot needle woman of Philadelphia, twice widowed by the Revolutionary War; (2) that she made some Pennsylvania naval flags, receiving from the State Naval Board on May 29, 1777, fourteen pounds, twelve shillings, two pence. (It has never been ascertained what these flags looked like.) Of such flimsy material are constructed the cherished kegends of American History.

(From Flags of the U.S.A. by David Eggenberger.)

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY'S FLAG.
RECONSTRUCTED
JULY 1777 to ?

One of the oldest flags of the American Revolution and one of the early ones to have thirteen stars was the flag carried by Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boy's. These men came from the Republic of New Connecticut (now the State of Vermont). Although little more than the canton remains, the flag is presumed to have had a green field. As such it was carried by Ethan Allen and his band of Green Mountain patriots in the battles that led to the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in New York and the surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga two weeks later. Today the flag is owned by the Bennington Historical Museum at Bennington, Vermont.



BENNINGTON FLAG.
AUGUST 16, 1777 to ?
UNOFFICIAL VARIANT OF THE NATIONAL FLAG.

The battle of Bennington is believed to mark the first appearance of an American flag bearing thirteen stars and stripes. Although this claim in not backed up by direct contemporary evidence it is supported by three strong arguments: (1) the flag associated with the battle is still presewed in the Bennington Historical Museum and remains unchallenged as the oldest Stars and Stripes in existence; (2) the claim is corroborated by a coherent and continuous local tradition that dates back to the date of the battle; and (3) it is generally accepted by almost every historian and scholar who has incestigated and reported on Burgoyne's campaign and the Revolutionary history of the New Hampshire Grants as Vermont was then called.

The Bennington battle flag was originally owned by Nathaniel Fillmore, grandfather of Millard Fillmore, the thirteenth President of the United States. Nathaniel Fillmore was a lieutenant in Captain Elijah Dewey's Militia company that fought at Bennington. The flag remained in the Fillmore family for more than a century and then was returned to Bennington in 1926 as its most suitable home.

Of all claims made for the " first " Stars and Stripes, this flag has the clearest record and the most historical merit. Despite its unusual design it is impossible to believe that this banner had any source other than the flag resolution of June 14. Doctor Thacher's journal has revealed that unofficial news of the resolution had reached the Northern Army at least as early as August 3. The flag designer may have misunderstood the actual wording of the " thirteen alternate red and white stripes," or he may have deliberately arranged them white and red in accordance with the principles of heraldry. The use of the figure 76 can only be explained as a method of honoring in blazonry the year of independence. The arrangement of the stars and the number of points were of course left to the imagination of each designer until specified by statute 135 years later.

The extent of the claims made for the Bennington Flag ends with its early display, however. It represented only a private interpretation of the flag law. There is no proof that it was an " official " flag of the United States Army or government.

(From Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

Vermont was not one of the thirteen original States, because its territory was claimed by New York and New Hampshire, so on January 15th.,1777 a convention proclaimed the independence of NEW CONNECTICUT.* Nevertheless men from the Green Mountain State fought against the British in the Revolution and some of them carried the first known example of the Stars and Stripes. Since 1963 this " Bennington Battle Flag " has been officially hoisted at the State House on the fifteenth through the seventeenth of August each year in commemoration of this important victory of 1777. Vermont continued to be an independent republic until March 4th.,1791, but we have no record of what flag, if any, it flew.

* The name was changed to Vermont on June 4th of the same year.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

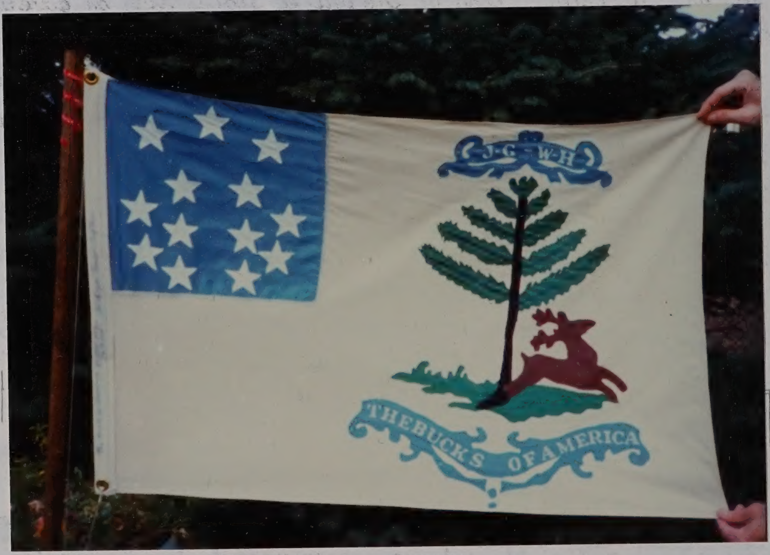
What is believed by some to be the oldest Stars and Stripes now in existence is the so - called Bennington Flag, supposed to have been used by the Bennington militia at the Battle of Bennington, just over the Vermont border, in New York State, August 16, 1777, and now in possession of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, Bennington, Vermont. No contemporary records can be cited in proof, but a long standing tradition asserts that this flag was raised at Bennington by Nathaniel Fillmore, Grandfather of President Fillmore, who kept it until the War of 1812, when he gave it to his nephew, Septa Fillmore. Thence the old banner passed on to other members of the Fillmore family down through the years, being exhibited for a time in the G. A. R. Room of the

Chicago Public Library, until Mrs. Henry G. Wilson, the last Fillmore owner, presented it as a gift to the Association in 1926. Spargo makes a good case for the Revolutionary War authenticity of this Flag.

The Bennington flag design is unique in some ways, and introduces at least one element not mentioned in the Flag Resolution of June 14th., 1777. There are seven white and six red stripes, and only four stripes below the lower edge of the canton. Theblue union has thirteen seven - pointed white stars, eleven of which form an arch surrounding the numeral " 76," which is also in white. The other two stars are located one in each upper corner of the union or canton, above the arch. The Bennington Flag is quite large, measuring ten feet long by five and one half feet wide, seemingly too unwiedly to have been carried in the midst of battle. Every portion of it is hand - spun, hand woven, and hand sewn linen.

From " The History of the United States Flag by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Wieg, and Roy E. Appleman.]

Many authorities believe that this banner is the one reported to have been used at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

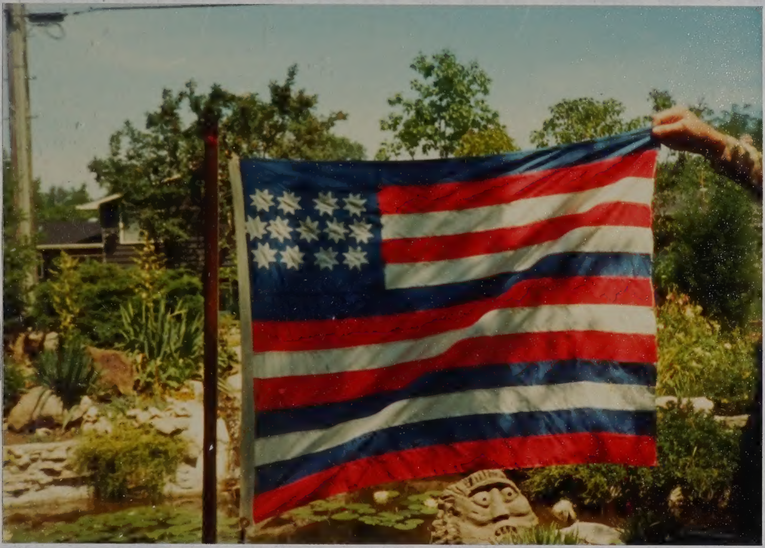


THE BUCKS OF AMERICA.
FIRST NEGRO COMPANY FROM BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS COMPANY COLOR
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This Buff color flag with the blue canton and thirteen white stars was presented to THE BUCKS OF AMERICA an all black man troop made up of half black free men and half black slaves of Boston, Massachusetts. The Colonel of the troop was Colonel George Middleton, a black jockey and horseman.

John Hancock was so impresses with the bravery and valor of this troop that he had this flag made and presented it to the Troop after the battle of Bunker Hill on June 17th.,1775.

The inscribed banner is now enshrined in the Massachusetts Historical Society.



UNITED STATES ENSIGN.
1778 - 1779.
JOHN PAUL JONES VARIANT. (SERAPIS)

In 1778 the King of Naples decided to open his ports to American ships, and that October his Ambassador at the French Court asked Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, the American Commissioners there, to furnish him a description of their flag.

" It is with pleasure," they replied, " that we asquaint your excellency that the flag of the United States of America consists of 13 stripes, alternately red, white, and blue; a small square in the upper angle, next to the flag staff, is a blue field, with 13 white stars, denoting a new Constellation.

" Some of the States," continued the Commissioners, " have vessels of War distinct from those of the United States, for example the vessels of War of the State of Mass - chusetts Bay have sometimes a PINE TREE; and those of South Carolina a Rattlesnake in the middle of the thirteen stripes; but the flag of the United States, ordained by Congress, is the 13 stripes and 13 stars above described."

On sea as on land, therefore, a wide variety of American Flags was displayed, and almost a year and a half after the birth of the Stars and Stripes the two foremost spokesmen in Europe could describe it in official communications as having " red, white and blue stripes." Their seeming error is significant, for it is inconceivable that Franklin and or Adams could possible have been ignorant of the descriptive language in the Flag

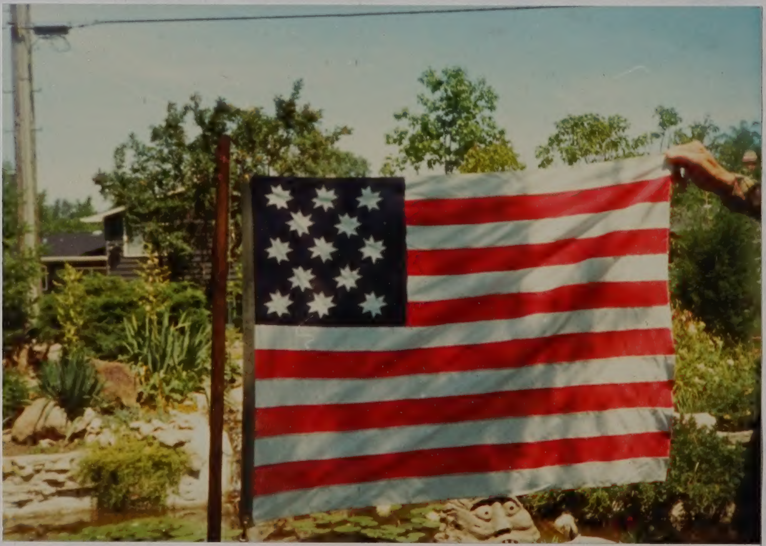
Resolution of June 14th., 1777.

No sailors in the world excelled American seamen of the Revolutionary War period. Hardly had the conflict begun when scores of ships, privately owned or manned, put to sea to prey on British commerce. Massachusetts alone sent out more than sixteen hundred privateersmen, chiefly during the war's earlier years. Sailing under a great variety of flags, they brought terror and destruction to Britain's far - flung ocean trade, and presently it became a matter of concern to neutral European governments how to identify the country to which they claimed allegiance. Upon this scene of confusion appeared John Paul Jones in the sloop RANGER, flying the brand - new Stars and Stripes. To him belongs the distinction of being the first to obtain foreign recognition for the flag, and also the first to baptize it, victoriously, in battle.

Jones, as we have seen in previously on page 48 , had been appointed by Congress to command the RANGER on the same day that the Flag Resolution was adopted. Following several months devoted to outfitting his ship, he sailed for France early in November, 1777, commissioned by Congress to convey the news of Burgoyne's surrender in mid - October to our representatives in Paris.

No Hollywood press agent ever advertised his client more successfully then Jone's did the Stars and Stripes to the governments of Europe. On February 14th., 1778, he induced the Admiral of the French Fleet in Quiberon Bay to exchange salutes with his vessel, thereby gaining the first formal recognition of the American Flag by a foreign power. Two months later he sailed from Brest for a descent upon the British coast, and defeated the British sloop DRAKE on April 24th.

' From Whitney Smith "The Flag Book of the United States.(



UNITED STATES ENSIGN.

1778 – 1779.

JOHN PAUL JONES VARIANT. (ALLIANCE).

After a long delay, the French government supplied Jones with a fleet of several small vessels. With these, in mid-August, 1779, he sailed for a second descent upon British home waters. His flagship was an over-age French vessel, which by way of a compliment to Benjamin Franklin and his POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK he renamed the " BON HOMME RICHARD." Other ships of the little fleet, which it was agreed should sail under the Stars and Stripes, included the ALLIANCE and the PALLAS.

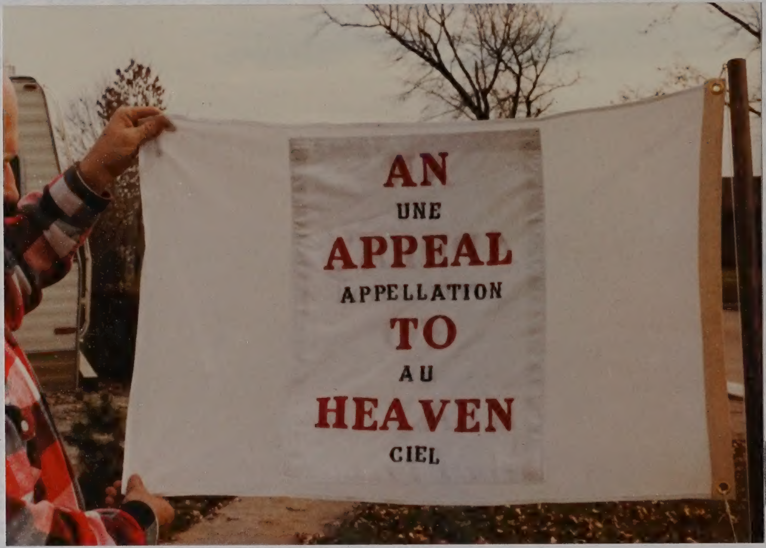
On September 23, 1779 after rounding Ireland and Scotland, Jones fell in with a large number of merchantmen, convoyed by the forty-gun British frigate SERAPIS and the smaller COUNTESS OF SCARBOROUGH. The PALLAS engaged and captured the latter vessel, while Jones in the BON HOMME RICHARD made for the SERAPIS, whose armament was so superior that his only hope of succes lay in coming to close quarters with the enemy.

Jones managed to lash the RICHARD to the SERAPIS. Then the two ships fought, muzzle to muzzle, for over three hours, in a desperate naval battle. The RICHARD was presently so damaged that only by the use of her pumps could she be kept from sinking. At length her gunner, thinking that all was lost, rushed to the poop deck to strike the flag, and finding it had been carried away by a cannon shot he called out for quarter. Upon this, Captain Pearson of the SERAPIS demanded to know whether the American ship had surrendered; to which Jones himself, opportunely appearing on the scene, answered something to the effect that he had " not yet begun to fight." Such at least is the version of his words which has become hallowed by tradition, through Jones himself merely stated, in his report of the battle made to Benjamin Franklin shortly afterward, that he had replied " in the most determined negative."

American resolution finally overcame British doggedness and Captain Pearson struck his flag. Because of the sinking condition pf the BON HOMME RICHARD, Jones transferred his crew to the Serapis and with his squadron sailed for Holland. Em route, the RICHARD sank on the second day after the battle. the remaining vessels reached Texel, an island off the Dutch coast, on October 3. The British Ambassador at the Hague promptly demanded that the Dutch Government seize Jone's ships and their crews, charging that the American captain was a criminal and a pirate, sailing under the flag of no recognized nation.

From this demand proceeded one of the most notable episodes in the history of the Stars and Stripes. The prudent Dutch dispatched an artist to make a careful drawing of the flags which the American vessels displayed. Fortunately for our knowledge of the subject, the industrious artist drew two pictures, one showing the flag of the ALLIANCE, the other that of the Serapis, now Jone's flagship. Both were painted in color, and constitute our earliest actual representations of the Stars and Stripes as first displayed at sea. Now preserved at the Chicago Historical Society, the paintings are reproduced in this book through the courtesy of that institution.

(From the History of the United States Flag by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.



APPÉAL TO HEAVEN FLAG.
C - 1778.

The inscription on this unusual flag - " AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN " - appeared in both English and French. It was significant that this Revolutionary motto was inscribed in both languages, for this denoted that the colonies were not alone in their struggle for independence.

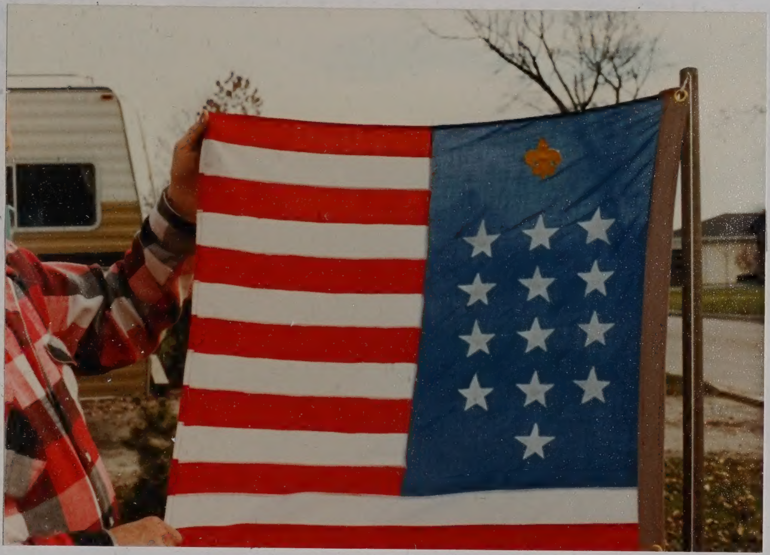
In an effort to influence European nations to support the colonies in the war against Britain, the Continental Congress established the Committee of Secret Correspondence to lay the groundwork for foreign aid. Benjamin Franklin and other Ambassadors were sent to France to persuade that country to form an alliance with the colonies.

Since England had previously wrested Canada from France, the French were anxious to strike back by aiding the colonies. However, the official policy was one of caution. The French were willing to provide support, but would not enter into a formal agrement until they were assured that the colonies could successfully resist Britain's military strength. Thus, for more than a year, Franklin and the other Ambassadors were unsuccessful in securing a treaty.

Then in December 1777 word reached France that the British General John Burgoyne had been decisively defeated in the battle of Saratiga. Franklin seized this opportunity to press for the alliance, On January 8, 1778 France agreed to sign a treaty, which was ratified by the Continental Congress the following May.

The treaty not only gave the colonies vital military support, but also encouraged other European nations to side against England, swinging the balance of power in favor of the colonies. And when Washington, reinforced by Comte de Rochaambeau, moved against the British at Yorktown in 1781, it was the French fleet that prevented the British from escaping by sea.

Throughout the Revolution, the phrase " AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN " was often used by the colonists to signify their belief that God would vindicate their efforts. On this white flag the motto appeared in red (English) and in black (French) against the white background.



FRENCH ALLIANCE FLAG.
C - 1778.

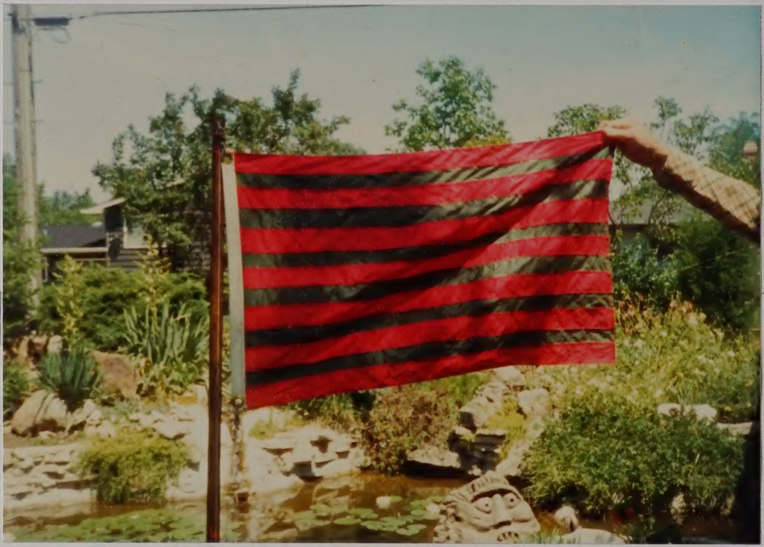
As a traditional enemy of Great Britain, France hoped the American Revolution would present the opportunity to avenge the defeat she had suffered at British hands in the French and Indian wars. Aware fo French sympathy, the Continental Congress sent a commission to Paris to negotiate a treaty shortly after independence was declared. King Louis XV1 and his ministers were reluctant to form an open alliance until the colonists had proven that they had a good chance to win their struggle for independence. In the meantime, however, the French were quite willing to provide clandestine aid to the patriots in the form of money and military supplies.

The stunning defeat of British General John Burgoyne's army in the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 finally convinced the French to publicly ally themselves with the Americans. On February 6, 1778 American Commissioners in France signed two treaties with Louis XV1. In the first, France formally recognized the United States as an independent nation; the second created an alliance. Both treaties were ratified unanimously by Congress on May 4. Before long, France had joined the war effort on a large scale by sending an army and a large fleet to the United States.

French influence on American symbols, as well as on the outcome of the war, was considerable. After French troops arrived at Newport, Rhode Island, for example, the black cockade worn by American soldiers was supplemented by one of white the color of the Bourbon kings of France.

Another indication of solidarity was a flag symbolizing the alliance between the two nations. The French Alliance Flag was a variation of America's Stars and Stripes, with a canton that was wider than it was long, its distinctive feature was the addition of a gold fleur - de - lis symbol of royal France - above the 13 stars.

Though no actual examples of the banner have survived, it is represented in a number of flag charts printed at the time of the Revolution. The French Alliance Flag also figures prominently on a tapestry commissioned bt King Louis XVI in 1783 for presentation to Geroge Washington.



FLAG OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.
OR NORTHWEST TERRITORY FLAG.
UNOFFICIAL VARIANT.
2 - 25 - 1779 to C - 1800.

The flag of the Western United States or Northwest Territory, of red and green stripes, is sometimes identified as the flag designed and fashioned by Madame Godare in Vincennes, Indiana. Tradition says she wanted the flag to be of red and blue, but no blue serge was available in the village store, so red and green petticoat material was used instead. This banner which is said to have been hoisted high over Fort Sackville by Alice Rousillion, better known as " Alice of Old Vincennes," when George Rogers Clark captured the fort from the British the first time.

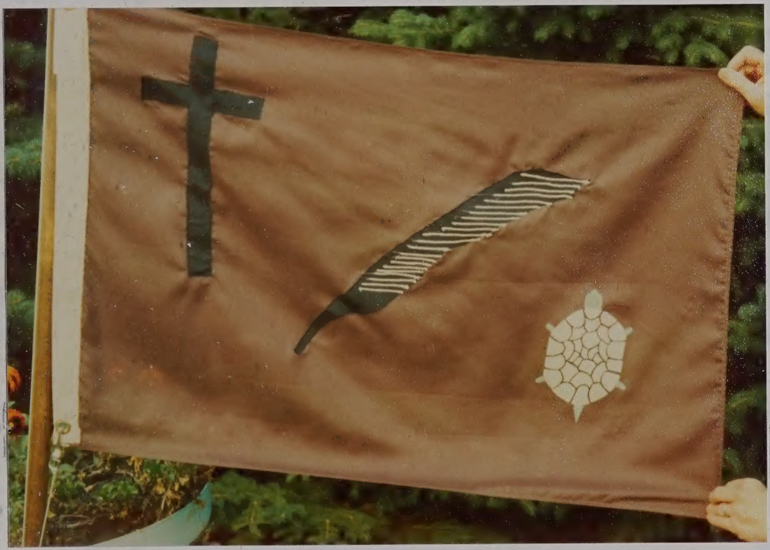
Another version of this story is that the British commander of the fort insisted on a formal surrender ceremony. Geroge Rogers Clark's small army had no flags so the ladies of Vincennes made a flag for him out of their red and green petticoats as no material was available in the village store.

The flag was used until the American Congress took control of the Great North-west Territory and divided it into two separate governments; Ohio Territory and the Indiana Territory. All laws and treaties made in Vincennes up to that date or time were official and binding without the Congress in Washington's O.K.

When Clark and his " Big Knives " captured the fort the second time from the British the 13 Stars and Stripes flag of the United States was hoisted.?

(From Flags of Vincennes Historical sheet given out in the Old Territorial Capital Building in Vincennes, Ind."

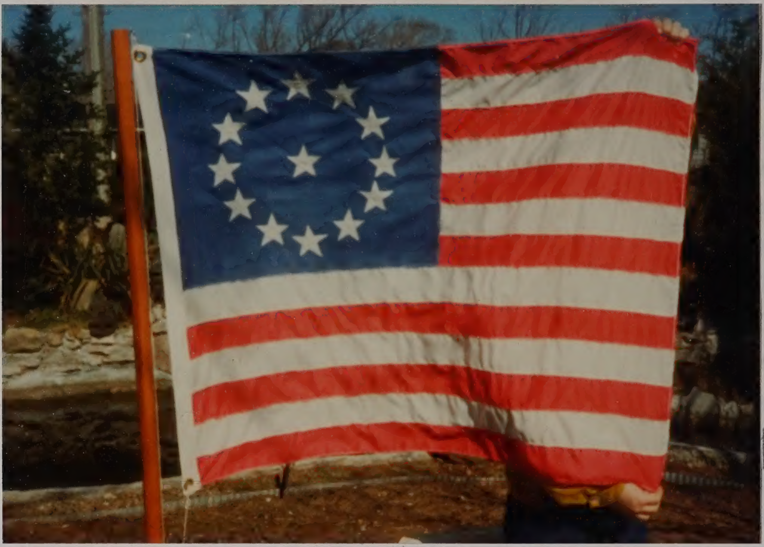
Replicas of this flag and the flag of Clark's Indian allies are in the George Rogers Clark Memorial Building in Vincennes, Indiana.



INDIAN BANNER OF CLARK'S INDIAN ALLIES.
2 - 25 - 1779.

George Rogers Clark's Indian allies had their own flag which they carried in the Revolutionary War against the British.

The flag was a rich brown with a BLACK CROSS in the upper left corner near the staff, the Cross signifying that the Indians were Christians. A BLACK and WHITE FEATHER in the center of the field to signify that they could read and write their own language. In the lower right hand corner was a BLACK and WHITE TURTLE, the turtle being the Totem of the Indians who lived in or near Vincennes. The Turtle is the Totem of the Delaware Tribes of which they were a part.



3rd. MARYLAND REGIMENT FLAG.
C - January 17. 1781.

In the Southern states no known attempt was made to interpret the new flag law for several years. Then on January 17, 1781, the Third Maryland Regiment is believed to have fought at Cowpens, South Carolina, under a starred and striped banned that fulfilled in every detail the first flag resolution. No record exists as to the origin or maker of this unofficial flag. All that is known is that it appeared on that date in Colonel John Eager Howard's regiment carried by the Color Sergeant William Batchelor. The sergeant was wounded during the American victory that day and returned to his Baltimore home bringing the banner with him. The flag was carefully preserved throughout the 1800's and presented to the state of Maryland in 1907. It is now in the Statehouse at Annapolis, Md.

' From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA or GUILFORD FLAG.
VARIANT OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG.
March 15th., 1781 to ?

Still another claimant for Stars and Stripes honors is the flag said to have been carried by the North Carolina militiamen at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781. Now preserved in the North Carolina Hall of History, at Raleigh, N. C., this is the only one which R. C. Ballard Thruston, a noted flag authority, feels condident was actually borne by American troops in the Revolutionary War. It is nearly three times as long as wide, and has seven blue and six red stripes. Against the white ground of the union are thirteen eight - pointed blue stars of unusually large size, arranged in rows of four, three, and four, with the twelfth and thirteenth stars to the right of these, somewhat midpoint between the rows. Although this flag approximates the general design of that prescribed by Congress on June 14, 1777, its color details do not conform with the language of the Flag Resolution.

(From " The History of the United States Flag by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E Appleman.

Another flag believed to have been carried by Southern troops at this time is the so - called North Carolina Militia Flag. This flag, now preserved in the Hall of History at Raleigh, has blue and red stripes and thirteen blue stars on a white canton. Its reversed colors may have been based upon a misinterpretation of the flag law. But it seems more likely that the design was selected to provide a distinctive banner for Militia. Although some historians have reported that this flag flew at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15m 1781, such an assumption is made on the basis of little or no evidence.

(From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

EUTAW FLAG.

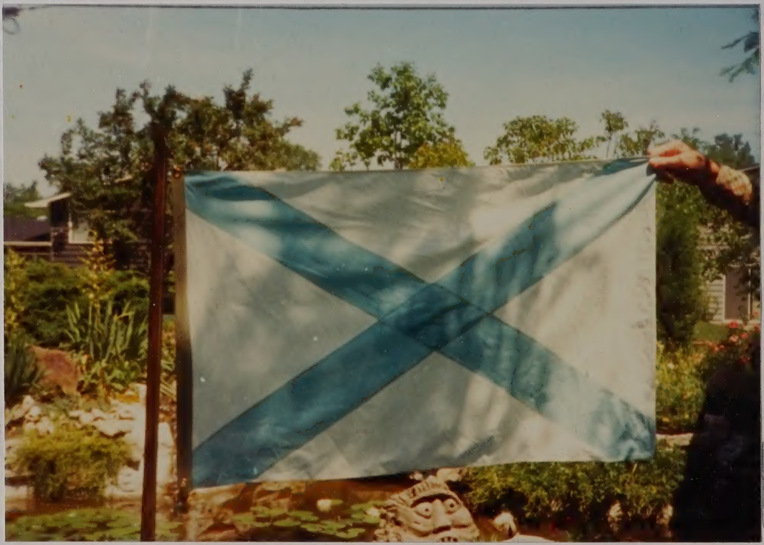
C - 1781.

In use 1781, this crimson flag which was originally square flew both at Cowpens and the final battle of the Revolution at Eutaw Springs in 1781. It was the battle flag of the cavalry regiment of Colonel William Washington, a distant cousin of George Washington. It was presented to him by his fiancee, Miss Jane Elliot of South Carolina, when he told her that his men had no flag. Miss Elliot on hearing that his men were without colors excused herself and went into the drawing room of her father and cut the emblem from the back of a new damask covered chair.

(From Compton's Picture Encyclopedia " Flags of all Nations reprint " of 1953.)

Another version of this story about this flag is found in Historic Charleston Guidebook, compiled by the Junior League of Charleston.

Tradition states that Col. Washington met Miss Elliott when he stopped at her family's home near Rantowles on his was to what turned out to be the battle of Eutaw Springs. As he had no flag for his command, Miss Elliott made him one from her mother's damask curtains. The flag is now one of the most cherished possessions of the Washington Light Infantry.



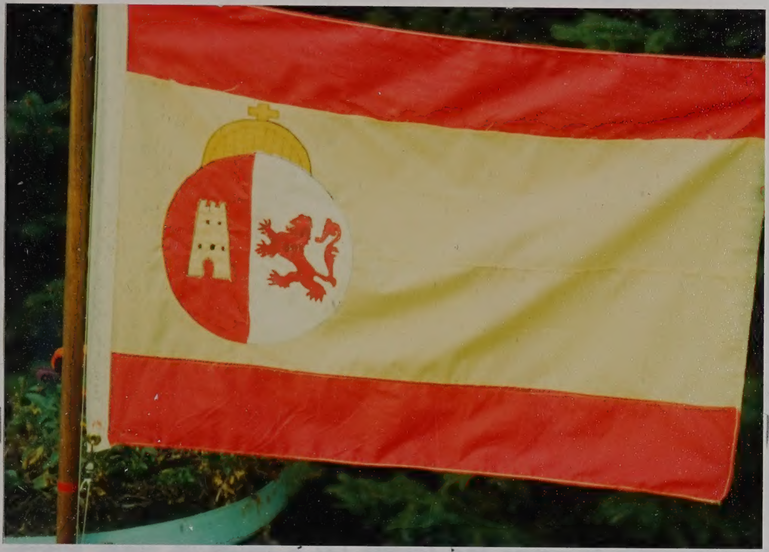
RUSSIAN EMPIRE ENSIGN.

1784 to 10 - 18 - 1867

On the west coast of the American continent exploration and settlement was being carried out by Russia during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, From Alaska down the Pacific coast as far as San Francisco came Russian fur traders and other merchants. Two flags were used, one a white, blue and red tri - color which Peter 1 had established first as a naval ensign and then, after 1700, as a merchant flag.

The second ensign flown on all State vessels, was white with a blue Saltire of St.Andrew, the patron Saint of Russia. These flags predominated in Alaska until its sale to the United States in 1867. However, between 1806 and 1861 ships and buildings there also flew the special flag of the Russian - American Company, which administered Alaska from 1799 until 1861.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



SPAIN ENSIGN.
5-28-1785 to 4-27-1831.
State Flag on land 3-8-1792 to 4-27-1831.

Many Spanish flags were flown in the period 1492 - 1898 while Spain held a colonial empire in North America. The two most common flags, however, aside from the Royal Ensign were the State Flag and Ensign of 1516 to 1785, page 3, and the Red and Gold flag with simple arms of Castile and Leon established on May 28th.,1785 by King Charles 111. This flag became the naval ensign of Spain in 1785, the flag of its Forst and other military buildings on March 8th., 1793, and basic pattern for the Spanish Regimental colors in 1843.

This flag flew over the few Forts and settlements established by Spain in those areas now part of the United States which were then under their control. This included Florida; Texas; New Mexico;California, and other parts of the southwest, Puerto Rico; certain Pacific Islands; and from (1763 to 1800) the Louisiana Territory. In Florida, this flag was replaced by the British from 1763 to 1783 and by the flags of the First and Second Republics of West Florida in 1804 and 1810 and the United States in 1819.

In 1821 Mexican flags substituted for those of Spain in the southwest. In 1898 the

Spanish - American War finally caused the Spanish symbols of authority to be lowered in Puerto Rico and the Pacific.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

FRANCE.

STATE & NATIONAL FLAG; ENSIGN.

In America 5 -20 - 1794 to 1803

After Napoleon came to power the famous Tri - color of blue; white; and red became the French National Flag and Ensign. The flag flew over Louisiana Territory and New Orleans until the United States purchased the area still claimed by France in the Mississippi River Valey from Napoleon for 15 million dollars, a cost of two and a half cents per acre

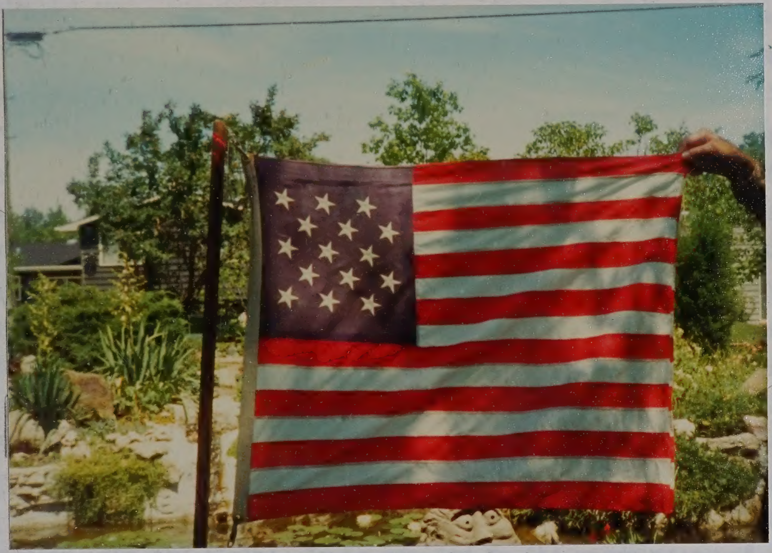
STATE OF FRANKLIN.

1784 - 1788

Franklin was never admitted to the Union. It was organized as a State between 1784 and 1788, and had its own constitution and governor. In 1784, North Carolina ceded part of its western lands to the Federal Government. Before Congress could vote to accept the region, North Carolina withdrew the offer. Meanwhile, since the people of the region were left without State or Federal protection, they set up a separate State. They named it after Benjamin Franklin, and elected John Sevier as their governor. Representatives of North Carolina and other members of Congress opposed admitting the new state to the Union.

Franklin goverened itself as a State for four years. Money was so scarce that salaries were paid in Raccon skins. North Carolina regained authority over the region in 1788. Leaders in the separation movement were pardoned, and Sevier was elected to the North Carolina Senate. In 1789, North Carolina once more ceded its western lands to the United States. In 1796, Franklin was included in the eastern part of Tennessee and Sevier became the first governor of Tennessee.

(See World Book Encyclopedia Vol. 6. Sevier, John; Tennessee, history.)



FORT MC HENRY or STAR SPANGLED BANNER.
THIRD UNITED STATES FLAG.
SECOND STARS AND STRIPES.
STATE AND NATIONAL FLAG; ENSIGN.
VARIANT.
5 - 1 - 1795 to 7 - 3 - 1818.

From 1777 to 1795 the first Stars and Stripes served the United States in war and peace. By that time the flag no longer accurately represented the federal Union, since 1791 and 1792 Vermont and Kentucky were joined to the original thirteen States. Therefore in 1793 a motion was introduced in the Senate, providing that on May 1, 1795 the flag be changed by the addition of two stars and stripes. The bill passed, but in the House it was strongly opposed by a number of members. Surprising as it may seem today, the reason they objected to the proposal was that they considered it, as Representative Thatcher of Massachusetts put it, " a consummate piece of frivolity." If one began to change the flag for each new State, as another man with some foresight pointed out, there would be no telling when it would end. Representative Smith of Vermont, overlooking the honor involved for his own State, objected that it would cost $60 apiece to change the flags for each merchant ship in the nation.

Despite the criticisms raised, a new flag was adopted which was to serve for the following twenty - three years. It flew when the United States engaged in an unofficial war with France in 1798 and during the war of 1812 with Britain. In between, the country undertook to end the piracy on American and European ships which had long been carried on by the Arab states of the " Barbary Coast," i.e., North Africa. It was during this war that Americans first raised their flag in military victory over a fort in the Old World; on April 27th., 1805 the fortified city of Derna, Tripoli, fell to the U. S. Marines.

The most famous incident involving the flag of fifteen stars and stripes was undoubtedly its display over Fort McHenry, Maryland, during its bombardment by the British on the night of September 13 - 14, 1814. A Washington lawyer named Francis Scott Key was in custody on a British ship that night because he had gone to seek the release of a friend. He and his companion, Colonel John Skinner, watched fearfully as the Fort was subjected to the rocket attack. In his joy the next morning at seeing the flag still waving defiantly, Key wrote " The Star - Spangled Banner." The poem was often sung to the tune of an English drinking song,"Anacreon in Heaven." The new song became very popular and finally in 1931 it was adopted as the national anthem of the United States. " The Star - Spangled Banner " has also remained in common usage for the flag. The Star-Spangled Banner itself, restored to show its original thirty by forty-two foot size, now hangs as the central exhibit in the History and Technology Building of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

The Continental Congress, under whose authority the Revolutionary War was fought, constantly found itself beset by a sea of difficulties. Foremost among these was the task of maintaining an army and navy by which the independence hopefully proclaimed on July 4, 1776, might be achieved. Despite the efforst of Congress, Washington's troops often lacked many things essential to bare existence. Even the procurement of such equipment as drums and flags was delayed almost until the war's end.

Congress's Marine Committee understood, of course, the practial necessity for a flag to identify vessels at sea, and although positive records are lacking we may reasonably assume that it discussed the subject and that the Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777, creating the Stars and Stripes, was introduced with its knowledge and approval. Since no appropriation was required, nor any personal or political interest involved, the harried legislators resolved their problem without fuss or controversy.

So the Stars and Stripes was created. Like the nation, however, the newborn banner was an inchoate thing, fuller development of which came gradually with the passage of time. For such details as relative proportions of the flag, size of the union, design of the stars and their arrangement thereon, those who made our first flags were free, as has been shown, to excerise personal preferences. Less that two decades had elapsed, however, when a situation arose which the Congress in 1777 had not foreseen, and with which the individual flag maker was powerless to cope.

The United States of today was created by a slow fusing of seperate and discordant political communities into one common whole. Compromising their special interests proved exceedingly difficult, and not until 1781, when the war was almost ended, were the Articles of Confederation finnaly agreed upon. Conflict between the large - State and small - State parties principally accounted for this long delay. Seven of the original States advanced claims, usually based upon their colonial charters, to band extending from sea to sea. The other six States had no pretensions of this kind, and they naturally feared that when the western country came to be settled they would be overshadowed in wealth, population, and political power by their large - State neighbors. They also felt that since national independence was being achieved by common effort and sacrifice of all the States, the western lands should rightfully be owned by the national government, and administered by it for the general benefit of all.

The spokesman of Maryland, in particular, were adamant champions of the small - State view, and they steadfastly refused to enter the Union umtil their demand for cession of the western country to the Confederation was met. At length, in 1780, New York, whose title to western lands was comparatively shadowy, offered to surrender her claim. Thereupon, in October following, Congress adopted a resolution pledging that any lands thus ceded to the United States would be administered for the common benefit, and would be erected into new States, to be admited to the union as equal partners with those already existing.

With this important resolution the United States took the first positive steps in solving a problem which had baffled the genius of England's statesmen, whose fumbling precipitated the Revolutionary War. Where the British could think of no other answer to the colonial question than armed conquest and forcible submission, America now proposed to create self - governing States in her own western domain. As such, these States would tax and largely maintain themselves, and being equals in the Union would have a stake in remaining permanently loyal to it. This became the cornerstone of the American territorial system, and the basic political policy which made possible expansion of the Republic from thirteen original commonwealths to our present fifty.

Thus the Congressional resolution adopted in October, 1780, rebdered obsolete the Flag Resolution of Jun e 14, 1777, since the latter implied permanence of a Union having but thirteen States. Even before the war came to a close, plans were being eagerly discussed in the Continental Army and elsewhere for the settlement of a new State north-west of the Ohio River. This led finally to the Ordinance of 1787, enacted July 13, which created a single temporary government for the entire region bounded by the Great Lakes and the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, with provision for its division, as the progress of settlement warranted, into as many as five States. The founding of Marietta followed quickly in 1788, and Ohio, the first State carved from the Northwest Territory, was admitted to the Union fifteen years later.

Long before this two other States had been added to the original thirteen, Vermont in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. The first Stars and Stripes was now outgrown, and like the Great Union Flag before it, had to be replaced by a more appropriate emblem. On December 23, 1793, Stephen R. Bradley of Vermont informed the Senate that " on Wednesday next " he would ask leave to introduce a bill " for altering the Flag of the United States." Wednesday next was Christmas Day, and there was no session of the Senate until the following day, when the bill was introduced and read. On Friday, the 27th, it was given a second reading, and on Monday, the 30th, was read for the third time and passed, The last day of 1793 saw the bill transmitted to the House of Representatives, where it was read twice and " committed " for further action.

Like the Flag Resolution of 1777, the newly proposed legislation was remarkably brief. In less than four lines of print it provided that beginning May 1, 1795, the Flag of the United States should be " fifteen stripes, alternate red and white," with a union of " fifteen stars, white in a blue field ". Unlike the situation in 1777, however , there was now provision for recording the debates in Congress, as established by the new Federal Government instituted under the Constitution adopted in 1789. Legislative discussion on Bradley's bill, therefore, may still be read.

The debate upon this subject in the House disclosed high resentment toward the Senate for troubling it with the matter. Although the latter had passed the bill without discussion, the lower chamber, on January 7, 1794, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to deal with it, and the fireworks began at once.

Goodhue of Massachusetts thought the bill " a trifling business, which ought not to engross the attention of the House, when it was its duty to discuss matters infinitely greater importance. If we are to alter the flag from thirteen to fifteen stripes, and two additional stars, because Vermont and Kentucky have been added, we may go on adding and altering at this rate for one hundred years to come. It is very likely before fifteen years elapse we shall consist of twenty States. The flag ought to be permanent.

Lyman, also of Massachusetts, begged to differ with his colleague. He considered it of the greatest importance not to offend the new States. Thatcher, another Massachusetts man, shared Goodhue's sentiments, ridiculing the idea of being bothered with the bill, which he termed " a consummate piece of frivolity."

Opinion was ventured mildly by Greenup of Kentucky that it seemed important to inform the world that we now had two additional States. But he found himself squelched by Niles of Vermont, who curiously agreed with the Massachusetts detractors. Niles was sorry that the bill had even " for a moment " detained the House from worthwhile matters of business. He did not think it worth the trouble of either adopting or rejecting, but as the shortest way out urged that it be promptly passed.

To this the committee agreed, and the measure then came before the House proper, where much the same lines of argument were again heard. Boudinot of New Jersey thought it important " to keep the citizens ov Vermont and Kentucky in good humor " and feared that they"might be affronted" if the bill were defeated. Goodhue again deplored the proposed legislation as beneath the attention of the House, but since it must be passed, he begged as a favor that it might not appear upon the journal and go to the world as the first measure enacted by the present session. Madison and Giles, both of Virginia, hoped for passage, and Giles saud he believed it very proper to preserve the idea of having the number of stripes correspond with the number of States, adding that expense of the change would be but trifling.

Smith of Vermont now joined his colleague Niles in a slashing condemnation of the bill. The change would cost him $500, and every vessel owner in the Union $60. He could not conceive why the Senatesent over such bills unless it was for lack of something better to do. He would indulge them, but he wanted no more such alterations; " Let the Flag be permanent."

On the following day, after a third reading of the bill, an effort was made to amend it by adding the claüse " to fix forever the Flag of the United States," and thus to preclude requests for future changes as new States were admitted. This proposal was voted down, and the bill was finally passed, on January 13, 1794, by a vote of 50 to 42.

The debate upon this bill clearly indicates what the generation which created our national flag really thought about it. Obviously, there was no particular veneration for the Stars and Stripes, nor was the subject regarded as important. Such indifference is not hard to understand. In 1794 the United States was not yet a strong nation. Until 1789 it remained but a weak political confederation. As late as 1788, two of the original thirteen States (Rhode Island and North Carolina) had not yet joined the Union, and a third (New York) took no part in the first Presidential election. The Stars and Stripes had never been carried officialy by the Army, nor would it be for another generation to come. There was no Navy to display the flag abroad, and although it floated over some merchant ships and land fortifications, the vast majority of Americans never came in contact with it.

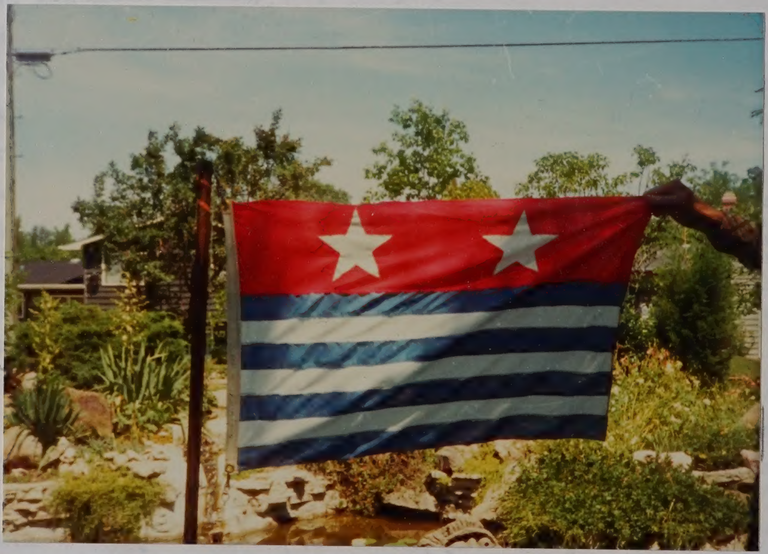
The sentiments expressed by members of Congress in 1794 undoubtedly reflected the feelings of their constituents with regard to the flag bill. When Senator Bradley forced the subject upon their attention they passed his proposed legislation as the quickest way of terminating a " trivial " discussion. Even so, the decision was close, and a change of four votes in the House would have meant rejection of the bill.

It can hardly be claimed that the framers of the Second Flag Act wrought either wisely or well. They showed but slight sense of dignity and no appreciation whatever of the Union so recently established on a new and firmer basis. Meanness of sprit and lack of vision characterized their debates, and the flag they adopted signally lacked that element of permanence for which some of them argued and voted. By 1794 it was clear that the creation of more new States was only a question of time. Were these to be forever denied representation upon the national banner? And if not, how could a flag of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes be considered permanent? Again despite seventeen years of experience with the Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777, nothing was done to clarify how the flag should be made.

Nevertheless, the banner of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes remained the United States national flag for almost a quarter of a century. During this period the American Navy was reborn; three wars were waged with the Barbary States of North Africa; a second major conflict occurred with Great Britain, the War of 1812; and American seamen repeatedly bested the enemy in an undeclared war with France. With these events the Stars and Stripes grew in prestige and historical associations.

(From " The History of The United States Flag by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.)

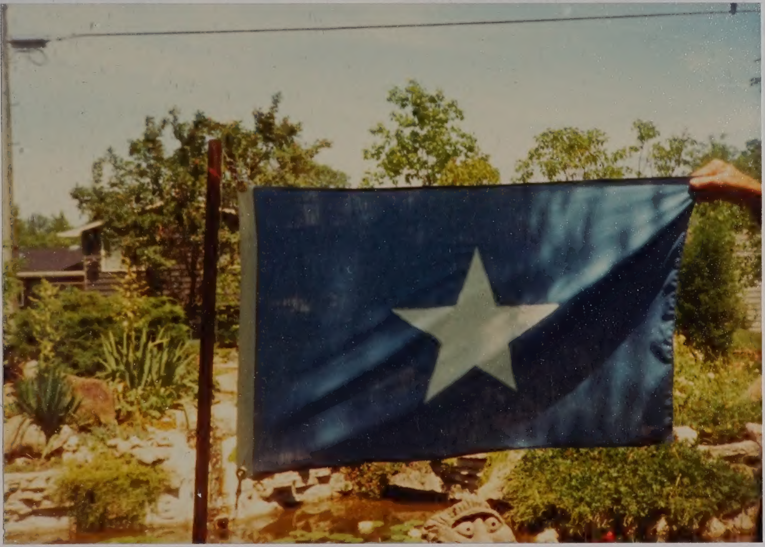
In May of 1812, popular custom of Public School's flying the National Flag begins with the first recorded raising of the Stars and Stripes over a Schoolhouse, at Colrain, Massachusetts.



REPUBLIC OF WEST FLORIDA.
RECONSTRUCTED:
C - 1804

When the United States concluded the Louisiana Purchase with France in 1803, it expected to receive the territory known as West Florida which included parts of the present States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Spain claimed, however, that she had never ceded this to France and refused to evacute her troops. American settlers living in this area were prompted by this to revolt. In 1804 Reuben, Nathan, and Samuel Kemper and their faction hoisted a flag of Rebellion consisting of seven blue and white stripes with two white stars on a red canton, a design proably inspired by the flag of the United States.

(From "The Flag Book of the United States." by Whitney Smith.)



2nd. REPUBLIC OF WEST FLORIDA.
9 - 22 - 1810 to 12 - 4 - 1810
NATIONAL FLAG.

A more successful movement was that which broke out six years later. It was sponsored by a secret society which used a five - pointed star as a symbol of fellowship. When they succeeded in establishing the Republic of West Florida, a national flag was hoisted on September 22nd, 1810. Although it flew only until December 4 of that year when the United States occupied the territory, the flag itself appears to have made a lasting impression on the South. The same design, which came to be known as the Bonnie Blue Flag, was the basis for the first Texan national flag, and in the Civil War was frequently flown by Confederate troops.

Mississippi was one of the States to recall this flag in its own. On January 9, 1861 when the State passed an Ordinance of Secession removing it from the federal Union, a large Bonnie Blue Flag was hoisted on the Capital building. Then on the 26th of that month a national flag was adopted for the new republic, in which the white star on blue served as the canton.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

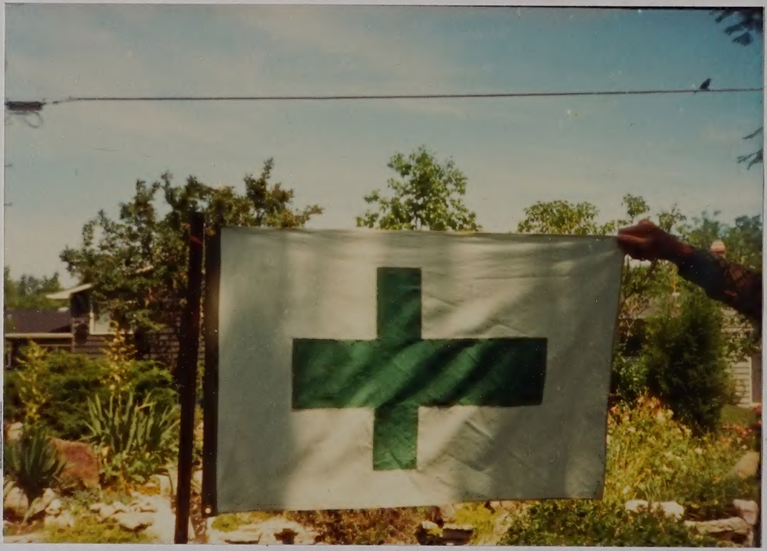
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

4 - 1813 to 8 - 1813

FLAG DESIGN UNKNOWN.

While six flags are popularlt credited to Texas history, in fact there have been many more. Texas was part of the Spanish dominions in April 1813 when Jose Gutierrez and Lieutenant William Magee organized a Republic of Texas around Bexar. Their venture was crushed in August of the same years and the green flag they had flown disappeared. The weakness of Spanish contral continued.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United Staes.)

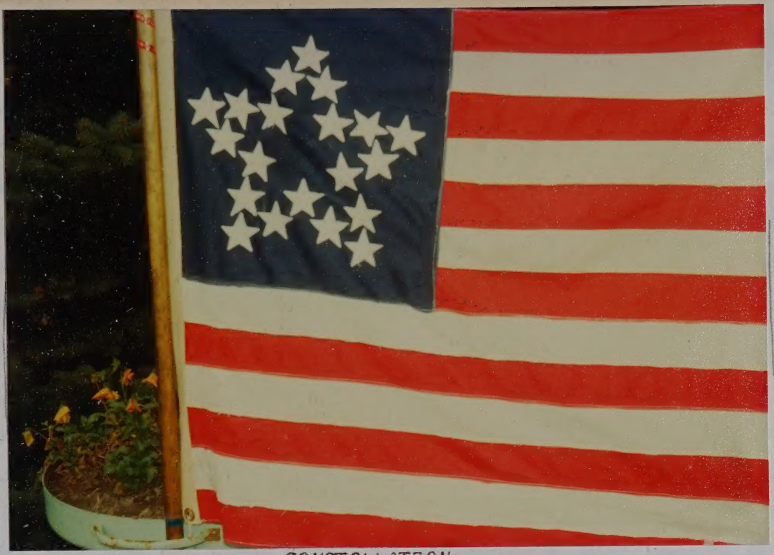


REPUBLIC OF AMELIA.

6 - 29 to 10 - 1817

The Spanish possessions of the territories of East and West Florida was a source of irritation to many Americans in the early nineteenth century. Negotiations and a filibuster republic sponsored by President Monroe in 1812 having failed to secure United States rule, certain private citizens sponsored an expedition by Gregor Mac - Gregor -- who had been active in several Latin American revolutions -- designed to seize the area. On June 29, 1817 he captured the island of Amelia off Florida and hoisted a white flag with a green cross. Four months later he was forced to flee and his flag was forgotten, although American efforts to obtain Florida continued until they were successful.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



CONSTELLATION.
4th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
STATE and NATIONAL FLAG; ENSIGN
13 Stripes 20 Stars.
7 - 4 - 1818 to 7 - 3 - 1819.

In 1796, a little over a year after the third United States flag as established, Tennessee joined the Union. Seven years later Ohio became a de facto State, although final legal confirmation of its Statehood was not made until 1953, In 1812, 1816, and 1817 Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi increased the total to twenty States. During this time many national flags unofficially reflected the admission of new States by showing additional stars and stripes. Similarly, the Coast Guard ensign created in 1799 had sixteen stripes and the Vermont State flag of 1804 had seventeen stars and stripes. There was no government action on the question of a new flag, however, until Representative Peter Wendover of New York induced Congress to set up a flag study Committee in 1816.

On January 2nd. 1817 Wendover's committee reported on the question of the new States. Noting that the existing flag was well received by Americans, the committee recommended that no fundamental changes be made. While new States deserved to be included in the flag, it was pointed out that the frequent adding of stripes would decrease the distinctiveness of the flag, especially at sea. It was proposed, therefore, " to reduce the stripes to the original thirteen, representing the number of States then contending for, and happily achieving their independence -- and to increase the stars to correspond with the number of States now in the Union -- and hereafter to add one star to the flag whenever a new State shall be fully admitted." This stroke of genius thus preserved st the essential appearance of the flag, while guaranteeing that the continuing growth of country would be symbolized. The bill was accepted the following year in this form.

> Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white in a blue field.
>
> Section 2 And be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall, take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.

The new law, which continued in force until 1947,* specified that the stripes should be horizontal but it gave no clue as to the arrangement of the stars. We know from correspondence between Wendover and Captain Samuel Reid that the latter had in mind to distinguish between the flags of warships on the one hand and, on the other, merchant ships, government buildings, and private citizens. The naval ensign would have had the twenty stars of the new flag in the usual rows; the state and national flag would have had one large star composed of twenty small stars. But the Navy Commissioners did not concur in this idea when they issued specifications for the flag on May 18, 1818; the only flag approved by them was to have four staggered rows of five stars each. The size of the flag was fourteen by twenty-four feet; the canton was one third the length of the flag and extended down as far as the eighth stripe. On September 10 of the same year these specifications were modified slightly at the order of President James Monroe, who required that the rows of stars be one over another instead of in staggered form.

Despite the existence of these and subsequent clear-cut specifications, there was very little uniformity in American flag design until the late nineteenth century when mass production of flags became common. Before the Civil War especially, flags were made to taste by each individual since hand-stitching was then the common mode of manufacture. Variations can be found, in pictures and actual flags, with respect to the arrangement of the stars, their sizes, and the number of points in each; the shades of red and blue; the number of stripes; the size of the canton and the proportions of the flag as a whole; and, of course, the kinds of material used. Government flags were as irregular as ones used by private citizens. During the Civil War, for example, it was common practice in military colors like the cavalry guidon to employ gilt stars instead of white ones. Even today specifications are regularly ignored; the most common proportions currently made by manufacturers for United States flags are not the legal 10:19, but either 2:3 or 3:5.

One very popular form of the Stars and Stripes used from the time of the Revolution through the Civil War placed the coat of arms of the United States in the blue canton surrounded by the stars.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

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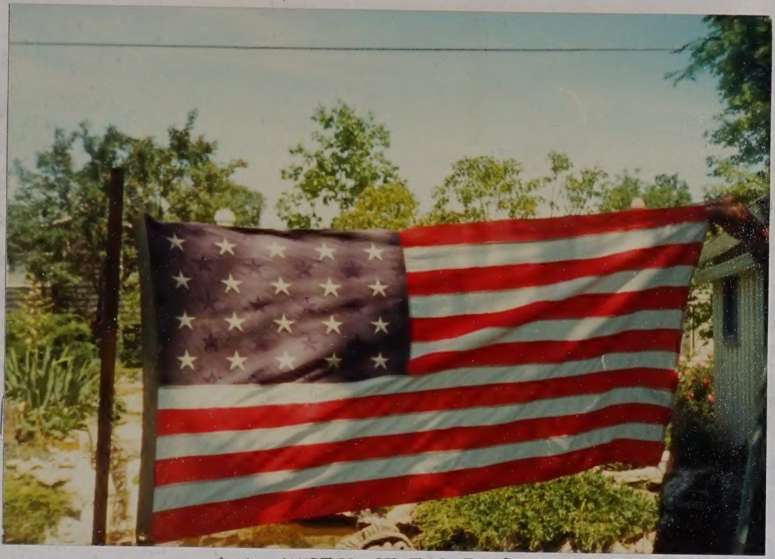
* While the original law was repealed in 1947 its essential provisions were re-enacted and continue in force today.



4th. UNITED STATES FLAG.

20 Stars in rows of five Stars each.

President Monroe Variant

7 - 4 - 1818 to 7 - 3 - 1819

Many men and women have received credit for their contributions to the development of the Stars and Stripes. Some of the credit has been deserved. Too often it has been misplaced or misrepresented. On the other hand, the two men most deserving of recognition are generally overlooked. Yet their work produced the flag law that has been in force since July 4, 1818. The men: Peter Wendover and Samuel Reid.

Soon after the war of 1812 it became apparent that the flag law of 1795 would have to be amended. Each of the first fifteen states in the union was represented in the national flag by a star and stripe. But now Tennesse had been a state since 1796 and had received no recognition in the national ensign. Ohio, Louisiana, and Indiana had also been admitted without representation. Mississippi was preparing for statehood and others were to follow it in rapid succession.

In 1816, Wendover, a first term congressman from New York, persuaded the House that legislative action was necessary, He got himself appointed chairman of a special committee to study the flag problem. It was obvious that the practice of adding one stripe and one star for each new state would not do. The flag would soon look like a strip of peppermint shirting, and the stripes would become increasingly narrow until they were little more than lines. Wendover wanted to retain the distinctive character of the flag, yet make it truly a national banner. He sought the advice of Captain Samuel Reid, a naval hero of the War of 1812. Reid proved to be an excellent consultant. He advised reducing the number of stripes to thirteen, one for each of the original thirteen states, and then placing one star in the canton for each state in the union. Whenever a new state was admitted, one more star would be added to the flag.

Wendover liked the idea. A bill was drawn up and reported to the House of Representatives. Although Wendover urged immediate enactment, the fourteenth Congress adjourned before the measure could be considered. Undiscouraged, the New York Representative renewed his efforts in the fifteenth Congress, which convened in December, 1817. In support of his pet project Wendover pointed out the great variety of existing flags. On one wing of the Capital was flying a flag with thirteen stars and stripes. On other public buildings in Washington were displayed at least three other variations of the Stars and Stripes, only one of which was authorized -- a flag of fifteen stars and stripes. One banner had been made up in June, 1788, after New Hampshire's ratification (the ninth state) had ensured the adoption of the new Constitution. It had but nine stars and nine stripes. Another had given unauthorized recognition to Tennessee, Ohio, and Louisiana by creating a flag of eighteen stars and stripes.

When Wendover's bill reached the floor of the House it was beset by three alternative suggestions. Walter Folger, Jr., of Massachusetts proposed to restore the original flag of thirteen stars and thirteen stripes, adopted in 1777. George Paindexter of Mississippi had a similar plan. He would reduce the number of stripes to thirteen and then place seven stars in the canton for the states that had entered the Union after the original thirteen. The oddest idea of all came from George Robertson of Kentucky. For no apparent reason he suggested an arbitrary number of stars and stripes such as nine or eleven. Fortunately, all these motions were rejected by big majorities and Wendover's bill passedthe House, March 25, 1818, with only a few dissenting votes. In its final form the bill was " An Act to Establish the Flag of the United States." it read:

> Section 1. Be it enacted, That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white in a blue field.
>
> Section 2. And be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.

The Senate passed the bill unanimously and President Monroe signed it into law, April 4, 1818. For the first time the stripes in the national flag were legelly established as horizontal. There was, however, no provision for the arrangement of the stars. This was deliberate. In a speech to the House on March 24, Wendover had suggested that the arrangement of stars be " left to the discrection of persons more immediately concerned, either to arrange them in the form of one great luminary or in the words of the original resolution of 1777, representing a new constellation."

Congress was so proud of its heraldic handiwork it could not wait the three months it required of the rest of the nation. On April 13 it had hoisted above the Capital the new flag of twenty stars and thirteen stripes. The flag, made by Mrs. Samuel Reid, had the stars arranged in the form of one " great luminary."

Mrs. Reid's method of displaying the stars was not accidental. Her husband favored the large, five - pointed star design " whose brilliancy should represent their (the states") union and thus symbolize, in the flag, the origin and progress of the country and its motto 'E Pluribus Unum'". Reid had suggested to Congressman Wendover that for the Army, merchant vessels, federal buildings, and general use on land the stars should be formed into one great star. For Navy warships, he recommended that the stars be arranged in horizontal rows. This distinction was infrequently observed and soon abandoned by the Army and all other government agencies, which preferred to make no rulings whatsoever. The Navy was more circumspect, in a directive dated May 18. and amended September 18, 1818, it established that the stars in the canton should be placed in uniform rows. It also ordered that all naval banners should be sized in the proportions fourteen (hoist) by twenty - four (fly); the canton seven-thirteenths depth of hoist and one - third of fly. This was the first government attempt to establish uniformity in the national flag.

In contrast to the first two official national flags, which served eighteen and twenty - three years respectively, the third Stars and Stripes was in existence only twelve months. Within that single year, however, the nation took two long steps toward determining what were to be its permanent national boundaries. On October 20, 1818, the forty - ninth parallel, from the Lake of the Woods west to the Rocky Mountains, was established as the border between the United States and Canada. Then four months later Spain tired of General Andrew Jackson's bullying tactics in the Floridas and agreed to cede both the east and west sections to the United States.

Meanwhile Illinois, which had been a slow - growing territory since 1809, now pushed hard for statehood, and made it on December 3, 1818. But only because both the territorial government and Congress were willing to wink at federal regulations. Illinois population was only 40,258, almost 20,000 short of the minimum set by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. And the Illinois convention ratified the new state constitution without submitting it to popular vote. Then came the real coup. Nathaniel Pope, territorial delegate in Congress, set up the state enabling act so that the northern boundary was moved from the tip of Lake Michigan to a point sixty miles farther north (42° 31'). This bit of territory, virtually stolen from what later became Wisconsin, now contains well over half the population of the entire state.

(From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

With the close of the War of 1812, the United States entered upon a long period of peaceful domestic development. Forgotten were American failures in the conflict, while the momory of naval triumphs won by such seamen as Decatur, Hull, and Perry produced an exaggerated glow of national pride.

In such an atmosphere it was inevitable that the growing inadequacy of the flag should receive early attention. Even in 1794, when fifteen stripes and fifteen stars were specified for the official flag, one of the debaters in Congress had prophesied that within fifteen years the number of States would increase to twenty. Although this forecast was not realized, by 1816 there were eighteen States, and the early admission of still others was imninent.

The man chiefly responsible for the adoption of the third national flag was Peter Wendover, a representative in Congress from New York City. Beginning with the Congress which met in December, 1816, he persisted in his self - appointed task until the passage of a new Flag Act on April 4, 1818, crowned his efforts with success. The littlewe know of Wendover's career indicates that he was an individual of commonplace ability, whose sole claim to fame was his achievement in developing the flag which has now served the nation for over a century and a half. This is glory enough for one man, and as long as the Stars and Stripes continue to wave the name of Peter H. Wendover should be held in grateful remembrance.

On December 9, 1816, the same day that saw the admision of Indiana to Statehood, Wendover offered a resolution in the House calling for appointment of a committee to consider alteration of the flag. This resolution being carried by only a bare majority vote, he refrained from pressing the subject at once, but three days later explained his reason for proposing the inquiry, particularly dwelling on the fact that although the legislation of 1777 and 1794 provided for one star and one stripe for eacj State, there were now five States unrepresented on the flag.

Other reasons for dissatisfaction with the existing flag were developed in subsequent months. In 1816 - 18, as forty years earlier, the national ensign was still primarily a naval banner, and among fundamental considerations involved was its visibility at sea. This was brought up very early in the debates by Representative Taylor of New York, who stated that naval men had informed him that the Stars and stripes could be recognized at sea farther than the flag of any other country. The addition of more stars and stripes would render it less distinct to distant observation, and this he wished to prevent. Taylor therefore favored restoring the thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, and making that design of the flag permanent.

The subject was finally referred to a select committee with Wendover as chairman, and on January 2, 1817, this committee rendered its report, recommending that the number of stripes be reduced to the original thirteen, but that the stars be increased to the number of existing States with provision for future addition of one more star upon admission of each new State. This was the short session of Congress, and admid the pressure of other business that body adjourned March 5 without acting further in the matter.

Soon after the new Congressional session opened, however, on December 16, 1817, Wendover renewed his resolution of the year before for appointment of a committee of inquiry upon the expediency of altering the flag. This time, in support of the measure, he commented on the fact that individual Stars and Stripes in general use agreed neither with the law nor with each other. In proof of this he called attention to the flags flying at the Navy Yard and over the buildings in which Congress sat, one containine nine stripes and the other eighteen, " and neither conforming to the law." For once objectors were silent, and Wendover's motion was adopted without opposition. Early in January, 1818, his committee submitted its report and bill to the House, which on March 24 following considered it at length in Committee of the whole.

Here again Wendover led the argument for changing the flag. After relating the now familiar story of the significance of the thirteen stars and stripes as representing the original States existing in 1777, he pointed out that within thirteen months after the alteration of 1794 the admission of Tennessee to Statehood once more made the flag incongruous and out-of-date. Since it was obviously impracticable to change the general of the flag whenever a new State came into the Union, or to go on adding indefinitely to the number of stripes, and as there was no need of twice advertising the number of States, the committee proposed to revert to the thirteen stripes as representing the number of original States, and to have the stars in the blue union correspond with the whole number of existing States. The difficulty of accasionally adding a new star to the flag would be slight, obviating at once needless expense for new flags and having the flag grow to unwiedly proportions. As evidence of present lack of uniformity, the speaker reminded his listeners of the differences between the fifteen-stripe flag required by law and several flagsthen flying over Washington.

On two other points, Wendover's' comment was also instructive. The committee had deemed it desirable to include in its bill a requirement that the stripes be horizontal. This was the case, as a matter of custom, in the existing flag, but a banner with perpendicular stripes would be less conformable to law. On the other hand, the committee wished to leave the arrangement of stars in the union to the discretion of the individual flag makers, " whether in the form of one great luminary, or, in the words of the original Resolution of 1777'representing a new constellation."

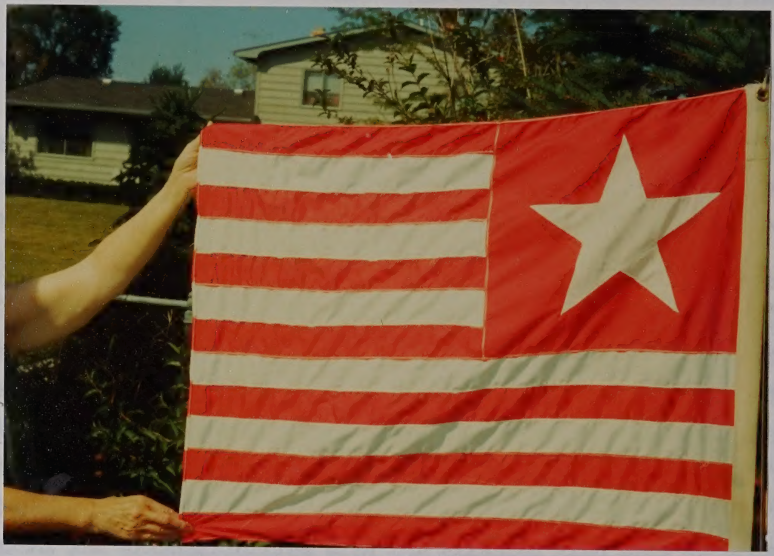
Several amendments to the committee's bill were proposed. One of these favored leaving the thirteen stripes to represent the original States but having the stars show only the additional States later admitted to the Union. Another provided for fixing the number of both Stars and Stripes at thirteen each. These attempts to change Wendover's proposal being rejected, his measure was then adopted without further serious opposition. This legislation remains today the legal charter of the flag, and its importance justifies setting forth all its provisions, which were as follows:

An Act To Establish The Flag Of The United States

Sect. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white on a blue field.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.

(From " The History Of The United States Flag " by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.)

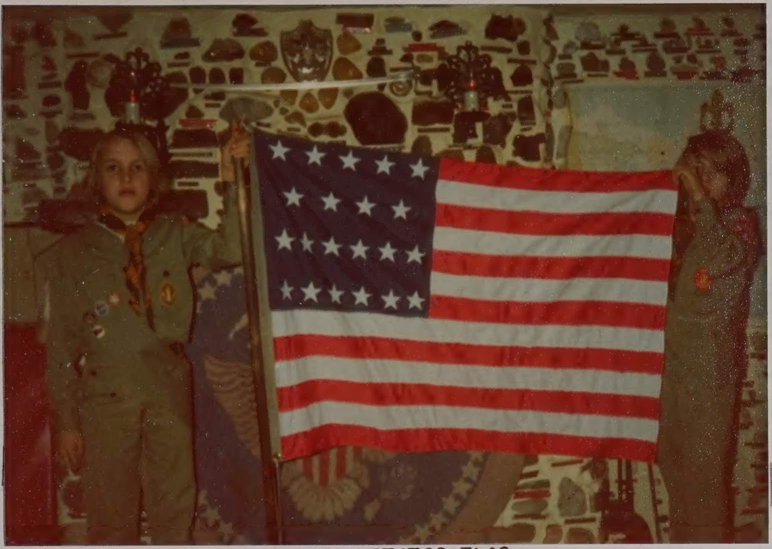


TEXAS REPUBLIC.
DR. JAMES LONG.
1819 - 1820.

In 1819 - 1820 another filibuster from the United States, Dr. James Long, tried unsuccessfully to establish a Texan Republic. His red - and - white stripes flag was obviously patterned after the United States flag, but substituted a single star on red for the usual constellation of stars on blue. Since Long organized his movement in Louisiana, which only nine years earlier had known the single - starred flag of the West Florida Republic, it is possible that this influenced his design. In any event his flag seems to have been the first in what became a long series of one - starred flags and other symbols that have given Texas the name of " The Lone Star State."

Except for the brief display of a white and red flag by the ephemeral " Republic Of Fredonia " in 1826. Mexican flags flew undisputed in Texas until 1835.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



5th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1819 to 7 - 3 - 1820
Twenty - One Stars.
ILLINOIS.

The first automatic addition of a star to the flag took place July 4, 1819, during President Monroe's first administration. Congressman Wendover and his adviser Reid had done their work well. The new flag law soon proved to be a happy and practicable heraldic arrangement for a rapidly expanding nation. Within a generation there would be states bordering both the Atlantic and the Pacific. And in less than a hundred years the number of states in the Union would more than double. Yet each new entry received such prompt and appropriate recognition in the flag that the Stars and Stripes was at all times a truly national banner.

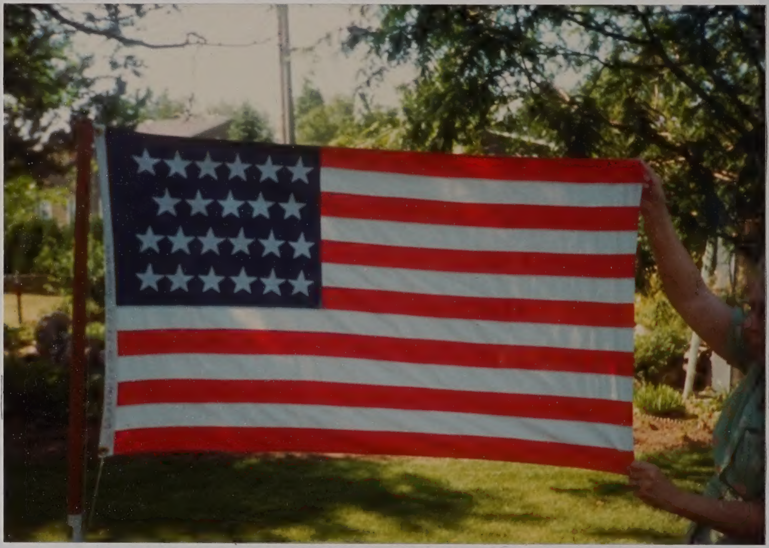
The twenty - first star, for Illinois, was added to the national flag July 4, 1819. As in the case of the third Stars and Stripes this banner served only one year. But it was a year heavy with the first thunderclaps of antagonism between North and South over expansion of slavery into the territories. Alabama entered the Union December 14, 1819, providing the eleventh slave state to match the number of free states already admitted. But then Maine began asking for admission, thereby threatening the delicate balance between North and South in the Senate of the United States. At the same time Senator Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois proposed that with the exception of Missouri no new slave states could be created out of the Louisiana Purchase territory north of 36° 30' (the southern boundary of Missouri Territory). After much political jockeying Congress voted to accept Maine as a free state, Missouri as a slave state, and the Thomas amendment as the future dividing line between free and slave states. This legislation, the famous Missouri Compromise, preserved a fragile, uneasy peace between North and South for another generation.

Missouri's actual admission was delayed another seventeen months because of a dispute over discriminatory provisions in its state constitution. Thus by July 4, 1820, only Alabama and Maine (admitted March 15, 1820) had become qualified for representation in the Stars and Stripes.

(From Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

During the Civil War Missouri had two governments one loyal to the Union and the other to the Confederacy. The state was represented in both the Union and the Confederate flags.

(From Whitney Smith The Flag Book of the United States.)



6th. UNITED STATES FLAG.

7 - 4 - 1820 to 7 - 3 - 1822.

ALABAMA and MAINE.

Twenty - three Stars

When the twenty - second and twenty - third stars were added to the flag for Alabama and Maine, July 4, 1820, it was only the second time two states received simultaneous recognition in the national flag. Vermont and Kentucky had secured dual recognition in 1795. The flag received no other double entry until 1912 when stars were added for both New Mexico and Arizona.

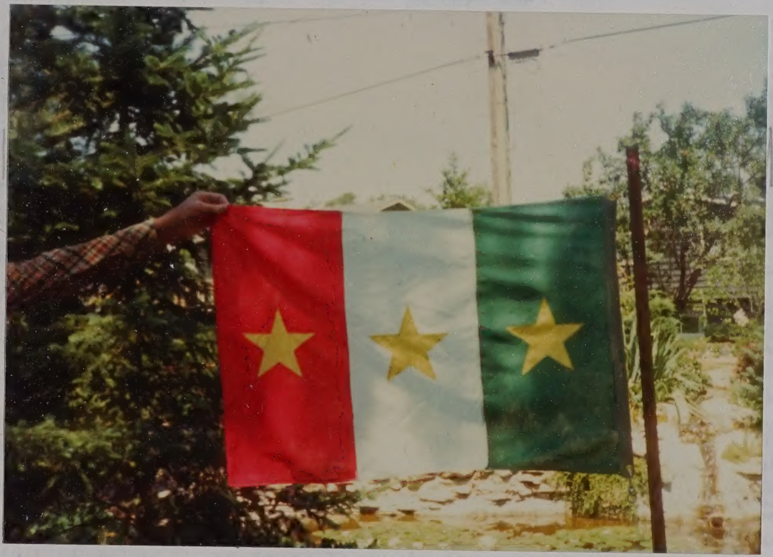
On December 6, 1820, the nation re - elected James Monroe, its fifth President, with 231 electoral votes. The United States liked the " era of good feeling." The defeated candidate, John Quincy Adams, received a grand total of one electoral vote (from New Hampshire).

In 1821 occurred three apparently unrelated events: (1) Spanish authorities certified a grant of land in Texas for settlement by Moses Austin; (2) Mexico pro -

claimed its independence from Spain; and (3) William Becknell left independence, Missouri, with the first wagon train of goods to travel the Santa Fe trail. Although these incidents attracted little attention at the time, their effect was to set in motion a chain reaction that would result in war and eventually propel the western boundary of the nation from the Sabine River to the Pacific and add to the Union six new states and parts of two others.

Meanwhile a second Missouri Compromise was finally agreed upon by both Congress and the legislature of the future " Show Me " state. The Missouri legislature promised by " solem public act " never to abridge the constitutional rights of citizens of other states - i.e., free Negroes - by enforcing the disputed restrictive clause in its state constitution, which it stubbonrly re fused to amend. A patent absurdity, but it worked. President Monroe admitted Missouri to the Union by proclamation on August 10, 1821.

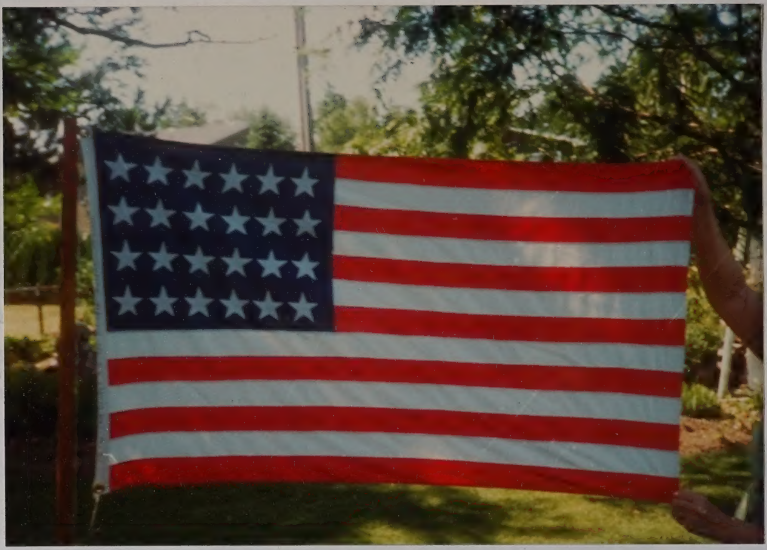
(From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



MEXICO NATIONAL FLAG.
7 - 1821 to 11 - 2 - 1821.

Mexico deserves notice here because it once ruled vast areas now part of the United States. Until 1821 when its independence was finally achieved, Mexico flew the Spanish flags previously described on page 3 and 65. The first flag of the nation was a white, green, and red tricolor, each stripe bearing a star. The stars and stripes represented the " Three Guarantees " for which the Mexicans had been struggling - - Religion, Independence, and Union. This flag lasted only a few months and was replaced on November 2, 1821 by one bearing the coat of arms of Mexico. Although there have been many reinterpretations of these arms since 1821 for political and artistic reasons, the flag has remained basically the same as it is today.

(From Whitney Smith " The flag book of the United States.)



7th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1822 to 7 - 3 1836.
(OLD GLORY)
MISSOURI.
Twenty - Four Stars.

The addition of the twenty - fourth star to the flag, for Missouri, signaled the advent of fourteen colorful but troubled years under one banner. Now President Monroe's second term was coming to an end and like Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, he had no wish for a third . In 1824 John Quincy Adams was elected the sixth President of the United States in a tight, four - way struggle with Henry Clay, William Crawford, and Andrew Jackson -- a struggle that ended with the House of Representatives choosing the President. (The Tennessee legislature set some sort of record for eagerness the following year by again nominating Jackson for the Presidency). Except for the Tariff of Abominations enacted in 1828, Adams's administration passed quietly. Seeking re-election, he was defeated by his strongest rival of four years before -- Andrew Jackson. The election of the stormy, sandy haired Tennessean ended twenty - eight consecutive years of Democratic - Republican rule. It also initiated the era of Jacksonian Democracy. Although Jackson did not singlehandedly create this period od social revolt and humanitarianism, he did become its outstanding champion. And he established beyond recall the principle that the American government is the servant of the people's will.

Before leaving office President Monroe extended the protection of the Stars and Stripes to all independent republics of the Western Hemisphere. On December 2, 1823, the President's annual message to Congress outlined the historic Monroe Doctrine, a cornerstone of the United States foreign policy still in effect today. The fifth President stated that " the American continents ... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power." At the same time he promised noninterference by America in European affairs. Any infringement of this policy was to be viewed " as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." The following year Russia agreed to limit its southern expansion along the Pacific coast to 54° 40' - a geographic delineation that was to become so charged with emotion in twenty years that it would help elect a President.

The flag of twenty - four stars was the original " OLD GLORY." In 1824 William Driver, a Salem sea captain, received a finely made flag from his friends and neighbors in the Massachusetts port. Delighted with the gift, Driver immediately hoisted it from his vessel, the Charles Doggett, exclaiming: " I name her 'OLD GLORY'." The Nick name soon won wide acceptance and has remained in use since that time. Captain Driver retired from the sea in 1837 and settled in Nashville, Tennessee. On patriotic days he proudly displayed OLD GLORY in front of his home. Tradition has it that he hid the flag between the folds of a comforter when Tennessee seceded from the Union in 1861 and then joyfully brought it out in February, 1862 as federal troops occupied the city. In 1922 the Driver family denated the flag to the Smithsonian Institution.

The Stars and Stripes received its first official recognition from the Army in 1834, fifty - seven years after its adoption. The General Regulations of that year marked the first attempt of the Army to prescribe some details of design. Article LV read: " The garrison flag is the national flag... to be composed of thirteen horizontal stripes of equal breadth, alternately red and white, beginning with red. In the upper quarter, near the staff, will be the Union, composed of a number of white stars, equal to the number of States, distributed over a blue field, one - third the length of the flag, and to run down to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top."

Article LV also authorized for the first time the carrying of the national flag by troops. " Each regiment of artillery shall have two silken colors. The first, or the national color, of stars and stripes, as described for the garrison flag. The number and name of the regiment to be embroidered with gold on the centre stripe..." The second, or regimental color, was to be two crossed cannon on a yellow field. (In 1886 the color of the field was changed to scarlet.) The infantry and cavalry (then called " dragoons") continued to carry their flags of blue. The infantry was also authorized a white regimental color announcing the unit designation.

On March 2, 1836, a new republic was born on the North American continent when Texas declared its independence from Mexico.

Meanwhile, anti - slavery forces were building up such strength that they became an influential factor in Northern politics. When Arkansas Territory adopted a state constitution in January, 1836, the anti - slavert element in Congress worked to block the admission of another slave state. It was pointed out that such action would give the Southerners a majority in the Senate. Finally a compromise was hammered out: Arkansas was to be admitted simultaneously with the new free state of Michigan. The entry of Michigan was stalled, however, by a local quarrel with Ohio over the Toledo strip. As a result, Arkansas entered

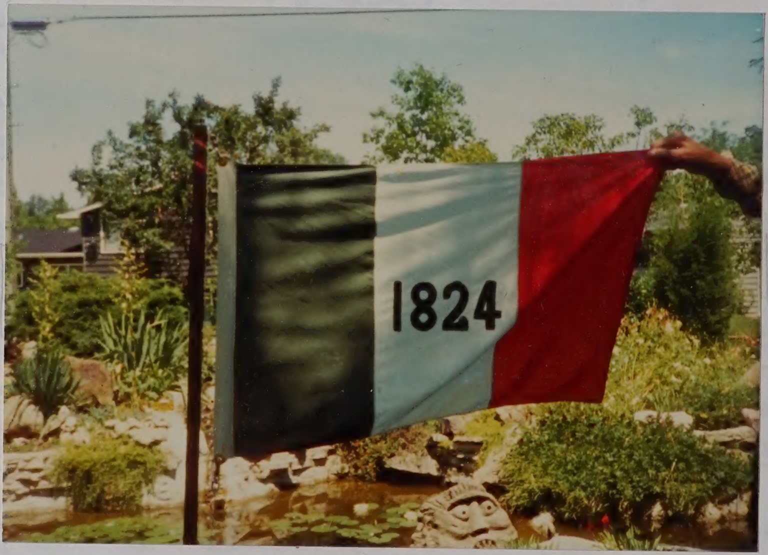
the Union alone on June 15, 1836.
(From David Eggenberger's Flags of the U. S. A.)

REPUBLIC OF FREDONIA.
1826

Except for the brief display of a white and red flag by the ephemeral " Republic of Fredonia " in 1826, Mexican Flags flew undisputed in Texas until 1835.

INDIAN STREAM REPUBLIC.
SEMI - INDEPENDENT
1832 - 1836.

It should be mentioned that a semi - independent Indian Stream Republic existed along the border between New Hampshire and Quebec from 1832 to 1836. Unfortunately, nothing is known at present about the flag or seal, if any, used by this state.
(From the " Flag Book of the United States" by Whitney Smith.)



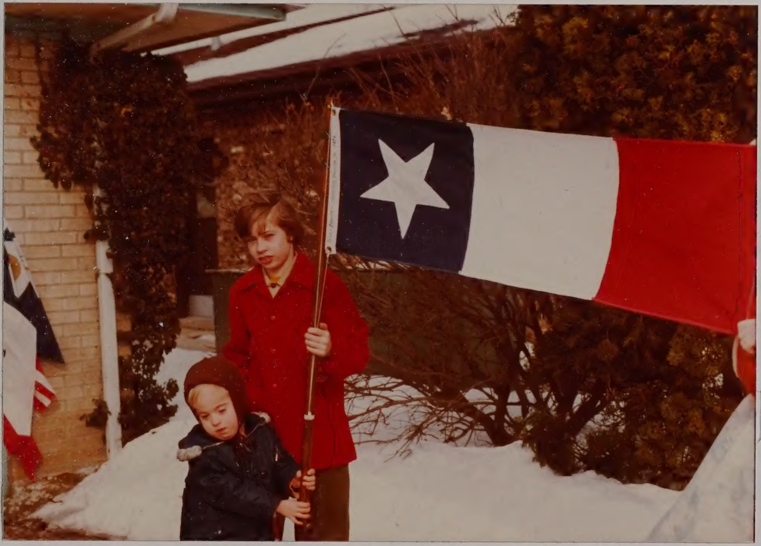
TEXAS REPUBLIC.
PRIVATEER ENSIGN
ALAMO FLAG
CONSERVATIVE PARTY FLAG
11 - 1835 to 4 - 9 - 1836

Mexican flags flew undisputed in Texas until 1835. By that time the preponderance of settlers in Texas were Americans who were opposed to the policies of Mexican President Antonio de Santa Anna. One group, the conservatives, were willing to have Texas continue as a Mexican state as long as the liberal constitution of 1824 was lived up to. Therefore they displayed the flag of Mexico with the date of the constitution replacing the usual coat of arms. The autonomous General Council which established itself on

November 3, 1835 at Austin designated this as the correct flag for Texan vessels possessing letters of marque and it was also carried on land for several months during the winter. Like the Continental Colors of the United States, the 1824 flag disappeared when those favoring complete independence became predominant. The flag of the group favoring independence was blue with a white star which symbolized their desire for independence from Mexico and for adhesion to the United States.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

When Texas was fighting for its Independence from Mexico, this flag was flown over the Alamo, the historic mission fortress at San Antonio, on March 6th., 1836, the Mexicans captured the fortress and killed all of the defenders. " REMEMBER THE ALAMO " became the Texan's rallying cry.

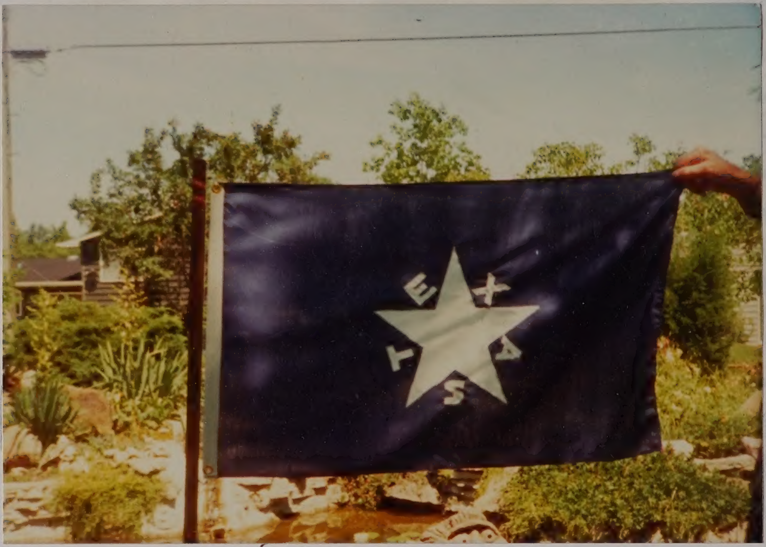


TEXAS REPUBLIC.

C - 3 - 2 - 1836

While exact influences in design can only be guessed at, many Texan flags seem clearly related to the flag of the 2nd. Republic of West Florida, (page 73) Existing records list a number of flags which included a single star, including those of Captains Baker, Burroughs, and Scott, the Gonzales garrison, and Johanna Troutman. The flag created by Sarah Dodson is supposed to have floated in the capital city (Washington - on - the - Brazos) on March 2, 1836, the day that the independence of Texas was proclaimed. This tricolor more closely resembled the present Texas flag than did any of the other local flags.

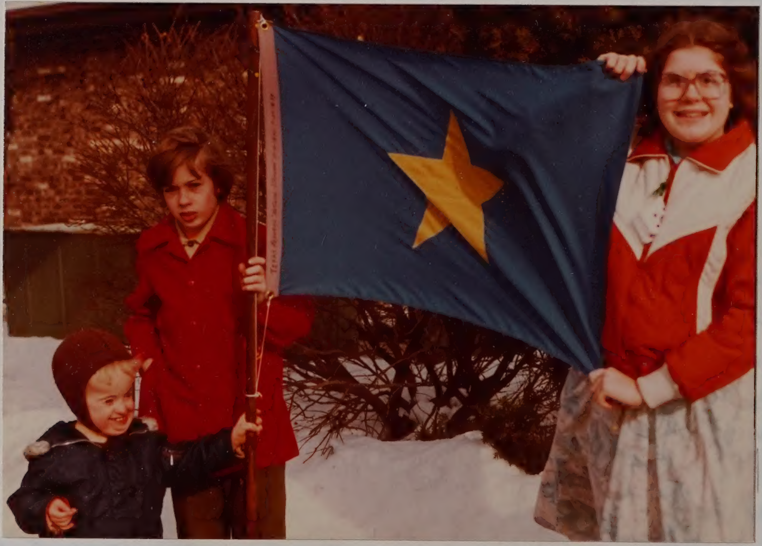
(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



TEXAS REPUBLIC.
NATIONAL FLAG
3 - 11 - 1836 to 12 - 10 - 1836

The first national flag of Texas was designed by Lorenzo de Zavala, a high Mexican government official who joined the Texans. This pattern was official, although apparently unused, between March 11th. and December 10th. of 1836, when a new flag was adopted at the suggestion of President David G. Burnet.

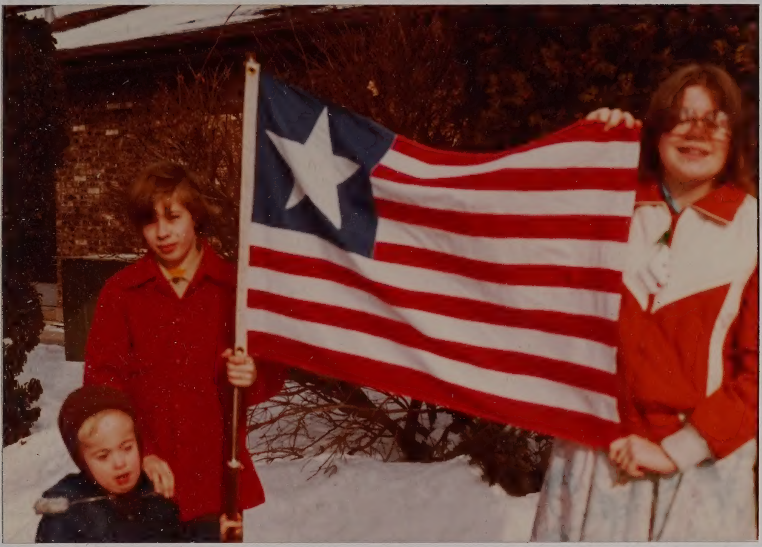
(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)



TEXAS REPUBLIC.
NATIONAL FLAG
NATIONAL STANDARD
12 - 10 - 1836 to 1 - 25 - 1839

The second national flag was adopted at the suggestion of President David G. Burnet. The flag had a blue field with one large gold star.

A third national flag was adopted by Texas on January 25th., 1839 and is still the State flag today.



TEXAS REPUBLIC
NATIONAL FLAG for the NAVAL SERVICE
ENSIGN
4 - 9 - 1836 to 12 - 1845.

During the first three years of its existence Texas sought to be annexed to the United States. This is evident in the design of the Naval ensign provisionally approved by President Burnet on April 9, 1836 and confirmed by Congress on December 10th. of the same year.

Since domestic American political problems made annexation impossible, the third and permanent national flag was approved on January 25th, 1839.

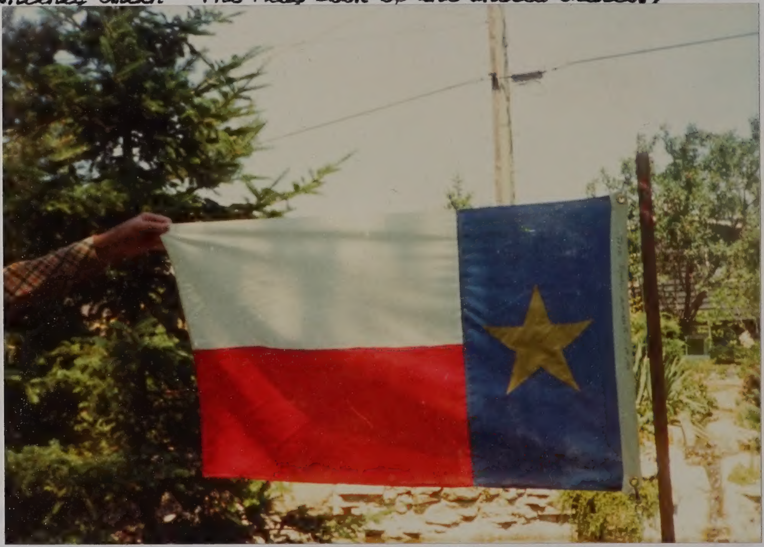
TEXAS REPUBLIC

GENERAL USAGE FLAG ON LAND.

1 - 1839 - Present.

The new design, the idea of Dr. Charles B. Stewart, served as the basis for the Merchant flag, Revenue Service Ensign, and Pilot signal which the Republic of Texas adopted in 1839. This National flag has also been haisted as the State flag of Texas under both the United States (1845 - 1861 and 1870 to the present) and the Confederate States (1861 - 1865). Another flag, flown in 1861 immediately before Texas seceded from the Union, was the old white star on blue field, with the Latin motto in English " Let Justice Be Done Through the Heavens Fall".

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)"

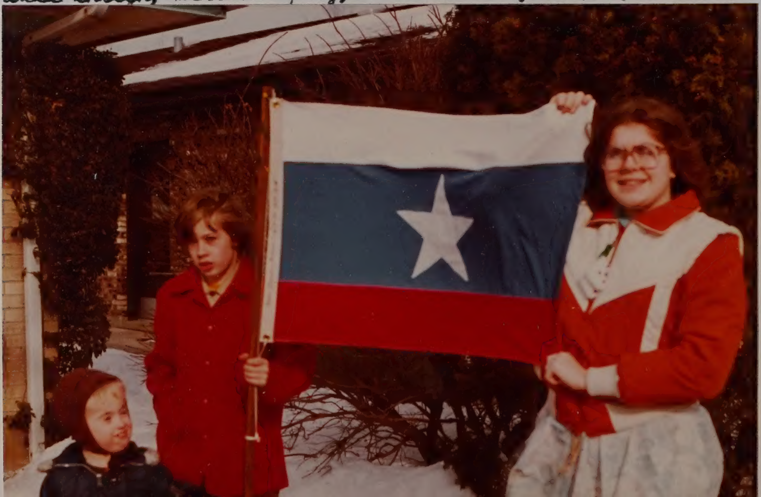


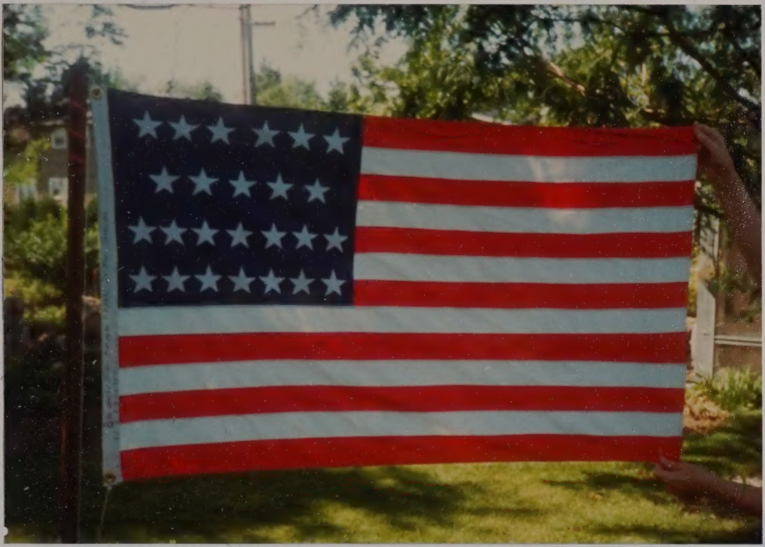
TEXAS REPUBLIC

NATIONAL FLAG AT SEA

1839 - 1845

Revenue service ensign, merchant flag, and Pilot signal flag.





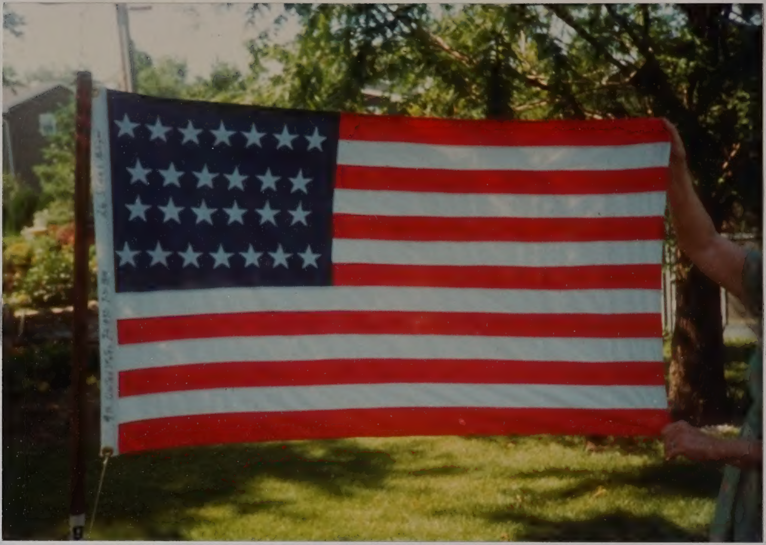
8th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1836 to 7 - 3 - 1837.
ARKANSAS.
25 Stars

Under this banner Democratic rule wass extended another four years, with the election and inauguration of Jackson's handpicked successor, Martin Van Buren, born at Kinderhook, New York, in 1782, was the first President born under the flag of the United States.

The new President had barely moved into the White House when the nation was struck by its first severe depression of purely American origin. A rash of internal improvements had brought excessive extension of credits by banks and unwarranted borrowings by state governments. When New York City banks suspended specie payments May 10, 1837, the panic was on. Banks closed, businesses failed, and industry became paralyzed. For the next seven years economic depression hung over the land like a fog.

Meanwhile Michigan's request for admission into the Union was stymied by the state convention's refusal to recognize Ohio's claim to the Toledo strip, even though offered the upper Peninsula (from Wisconsin Territory) in exchange. Then, the local Democrats took over. In a " convention " that was no more than a party caucus they accepted Congress' terms for the entire state, Thus, Michigan, consenting only in part, was admitted into the Union January 26, 1837.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.



9th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1837 to 7 - 3 - 1845.
MICHIGAN
26 Stars
Flag Issued To Infantry

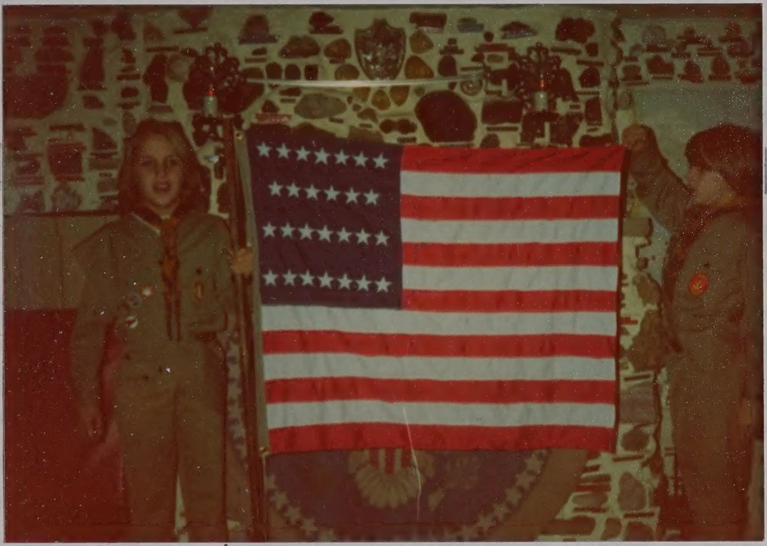
Under the flag of twenty - six stars four Presidents occupied the White House. The first, Martin Van Buren, was a candidate to succed himself in 1840. But he could not overcome two major political ovstacles: (1) the hard times that had hit the nation; (2) the riproaring, hard cider and log cabin campaign put on by the Whig's Tippecanoe and Tyler too," William Henry Harrison won in a landslide of electoral votes. After serving only one month Harrison died of pneumonia and John Tyler became the first vice - president to succeed to the office upon the death of a President. In 1844 the Whigs dumped Tyler as a candidate and chose Henry Clay. The Democrats nominated the first dark horse in history, James K. Palk, a Tennessee lawyer. A highly aggressive platform brought Palk victory - he pledged the " reannexation " of Texas and the " reoccupation " of Oregon (" Fifty - four forty or fight "). Palk was sworn in under this eighth Stars and Stripes, which became only the first of five different national flags in use during his single administration. Each Independence Day Palk was in office one additional star was added to the flag.

The Stars and Stripes of 1837 - 1838 served as the naval ensign of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes's historic exploring expedition into the waters of the Pacific and Ant - artic oceans. During his four - year voyage, 1838 - 1842, Wilkes carried the national banner more than ninety thousand miles and proved that Antartica was a continent.

In 1841, seven years after artillery had been authorized the use of the national flag, the infantry also received the right to carry the Stars and Stripes. The army GENERAL REGULATIONS for 1841 (Article L11) provided that; " Each regiment of infantry shall have two silken colors. The first, or the national color, of stars and stripes, as described for the garrison flag; the number and name of the regiment to be embroidered with silver on the centre stripe..." The regimental standard was to be the old blue flag formerly carried as a national color. A white infantry color, authorized in 1834, was discarded.

Beginning in 1838 Florida earnestly sought entrance to the Union. It succeeded only when it became apparent that Iowa also was ready for statehood, and the two could then be paired off. In this way the balance between slave and free states would be retained. Florida gained admission March 3, 1845, but Iowa's entrance into the Union was postponed for another year and a half.

(" Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



10th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1845 to 7 - 3 - 1846
FLORIDA.
27 STARS
WAR WITH MEXICO.

Under this banner the United States was gripped by confusion, great excitation, and finally war. The focal point of national attention was Texas. For nine years the question of annexing this independent republic had caused a stormy controversy between the free and slave states in the Union. Slavery was legel in Texas and the South hungered for additional strength in Congress. Many in the North thought annexation would touch off war with Mexico. Mexico itself had said quite emphatically that it would fight to prevent such action. Most Southerners were willing - even eager - to take that chance. Finnally, on March 1, 1845. a lame - duck Congress and a lame - duck President (Tyler) had put their stamp of approval on annexation.

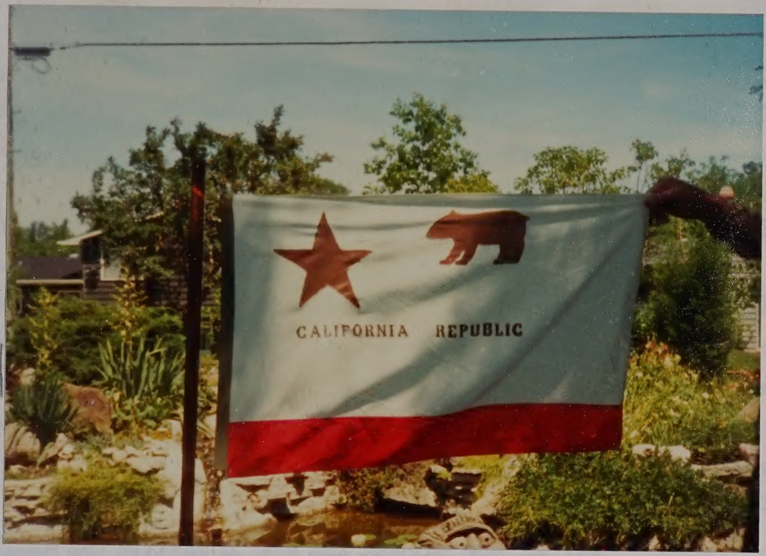
The same day Florida's star was added to the flag a Texas state convention accepted the statehood terms pffered by the United States. The agreement was ratified by popular vote in October and on December 29 Texas entered the Union.

Too late to back down now, President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to move his camp from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande for the " protection of Texas." In April Mexican troops crossed the river and wiped out a United States cavalry detachment. Polk and his cabinet had been waiting for just such an incident. Mexico had "invaded " our territory and shed American blood upon American soil." War was declared May 13, 1846.

In Texas, " Old Rough and Ready " Taylor had not been waiting for the formal declaration of war. On May 8 - 9 in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma he drove the Mexicans back across the Rio Grande, and then crossed the river himself a few days later. This was the first time in formal warfare that an official Stars and Stripes was carried in battle by the UNITED STATES Army. Each regiment of artillery and of infantry carried the banner of twenty - seven stars.

The second front to be opened up was in California. Colonel Stephen Kearny readied the " Army of the West " to push across New Mexico to the Pacific. A second expedition, a peacetime exploring party headed by General Fremont, had crossed the Sierra Nevada into central California some months before. In March 1846, Fremont had fortified Gavilan (Hawk) Peak northeast of Monterrey and hoisted the American flag there. He withdrew to the north, however, when the Spanish commandant at Monterrey, General José Castro, showed signs of moving against the American outpost. Spurred on by Fremont and unaware of the declaration of war, a band of American settlers met at Sonoma on June 14 and proclaimed California an independent republic. For their national banner they raised the dalorful Bear Flag. In the center of a white field was painted a picture of a grizzly bear. (Evidently the picture presented a less than accurate reproduction because the Californios derisively referred to it as a " hog .") The designer, William Todd, placed a red stripe across the bottom of the flag and a red star at the top near the hoist. Under the bear was the legend " California Republic." This flag later became the California state flag.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC.
(BEAR FLAG.)
UNOFFICIAL
State Flag on land 6 - 14 to 7 - 9 - 1846.

Relations between Mexico and the United States in the mid - nineteenth century were strained by the presence of American settlers in border lands between the two contries, particularly in Texas and California. After a long struggle, Texas broke away from Mexican rule and, after several years as an independent country, annexed itself to the United States. This was one of the immediate causes of the Mexican - American War in which California was one of the battlegrounds.

Dissatisfied with Mexican rule in 1846, a group of American settlers in California followed the example of the Texans; they seized the area around Sonoma and proclaimed an independent California Republic. Their flag was hoisted on June 14 1846 and flew until July 9 when American troops occupied the area and declared it part of the United States. Although there is some question about the seriousness of the so called Bear Flag party's actually wishing to establish a separate nation, their actions did guarantee that the United States would acquire California as part of the spolis of the war with Mexico.

The original flag, crudely painted by William L. Todd, had a large star, presumably symbalizing independence. The native grizzly bear, now extinct, was added at the suggestion of Henry L. Ford. Legend indicates that the red and white material came from women's dresses and that the star and bear may have been painted in berry juice. There has been some dispute about the exact details of the flag, however, because the original was lost in the San Francisco fire of 1906, and the contemporary accounts differ in minor respects.

Pride in this historic flag was promoted in the 1890's by the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, who made a number of replicas.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book of the United States.)

In the spring of 1846 the Mexican Province of Alta California was ripe for [illegible] -

tion. About a thousand " foreigners " - settlers of American or European extraction - lived among its ten thousand inhabitants of Spanish or Mexican descent. Three quarters of these were from the United States, and most of them were concentrated about San - Francisco Bay and in the Sacramento Valley.

Nearly all these foreigners looked forward to the prosperity which they believed would come to California under a new government. To the Americans this change meant nothing less than incorporating the province into the Union, or failing that, establishing an independent republic. The more conservative settlers hoped that such a shift could be accomplished peacefully and with the co - operation of their friends the Californians. Many others, however, were people with little property and had scant sympathy for the Mexicans. They wanted either immediate annexation or the establishment of an independent state by force.

By March 1846, it seemed to many foreigners that the moment for action had arrived. Brevet Captain John C. Fremont, of the United States Topographical Engineers, had entered California on an exploring expedition without permission, of the Mexican authorities. Approaching Monterey with his force of about sixty armed men, he was ordered by the alarmed officials to leave at once. Fremont " peremptorily refused " and fortified himself on nearby Gavilan Peak. American settlers throughout northern California prepared to rush to his aid, but a note from the United States consul induced the explorer to remember that fighting was no part of his mission. Fremont then retired northward, intending to return home by way of Oregon. Deprived of their excuse, and not feeling strong enough to challenge the Mexican authority on their own, the settlers remained at their homes.

April and May of 1846 were uneasy months for many of the foreigners in northern California. They knew that war between the United States and Mexico might break out at any time. Tension increased when the California authorities, emboldened by their success in " driving out " Fremont, began reiterating oft - repeated and empty threats to expel the settlers, most of whom were in the country without required passports. The ranking military officer in the province, Comandante General José Castro, with headquarters at Monterey, set about raising troops to overthrow his arch rival, Governor Pio Pico, whose seat of government was in Los Angeles. As a cover - up for his military preparations in this regard, he issued warnings against the foreign peril.

Little wonder, then, that some of the settlers came to feel themselves " threatened " and that they flocked to Fremont's camp when he returned to the Sacremento Valley from Oregon after being overtaken by Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie of the United States Marine Corps. Although Fremont had no orders to stir up a revolt among the settlers, he advised them to organize for their own defense.

Early in June, 1846 General Castro visited San Rafael, on the northern shore of San Francisco Bay . There he obtained a herd of horses which he dispatched under escort to his headquarters by way of the Sacramento Valley. Believing these animals were intended for use against the foreigners, a group of eleven or twelve settlers at Fremont's camp on Feather River determined to seize them. Led by a grizzled mountain man named Ezekiel Merrit, they surprised the escort on the Consumnes River June 10. The Californians were permitted to continue their journey, but the mounts were taken to Fremont's camp.

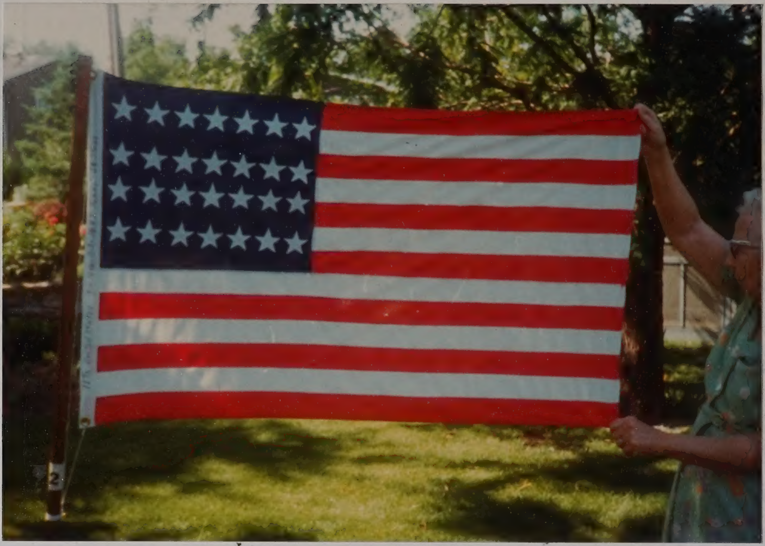
The break was now made, and the settlers pushed their movement forward. At daybreak on June 13, 1846, Merritts company, now grown to thirty - three men, captured the hamlet of Sonoma, north of San Francisco Bay. The town was ungarrisoned, but it contained a store of Mexican arms and the headquarters of M. G. Vallejo, commander of the northern frontier. Vallejo, two of his officers, and his American brother - in - law were sent as prisoners to Sutter's Fort.

On that same day William B. Ide was elected head of the " republican party," as the settlers now styled themselves. Needing an emblem for their cause, the men hunted about for materials from which to make a flag. Some white cotton was obtained for the field, and along its bottom edge was sewen a four - inch - wide strip of red flannel. A young man named William L. Todd, cousin to Mary Todd Lincoln, drew on its field designs suggested by the company. First came the traditional American emblem of independent statehood, a single star, reminiscent of the Lone Star of Texas. Todd colored it in with red paint made (according to the best available contemporary description) from " blackberry juice, brick dust, & oil." Facing the star he also painted a crude representation of a grizzly bear standing on all fours. Beneath the star and the bear were outlined in black th words Califorhia Republic. The completed flag measuring thirty -six and one - hald inches in hoist and fifty - nine inches in fly, evidently was raised on the Mexican flagstaff of the Sonoma barracks on June 14, 1846.

On July 5, 1846, Fremont assumed command of the revolt and reorganized the settler forces, which by that date nembered some 250 men. The next day he set out for Santa Clara, determined to whip Castro. Reaching Sutter's Fort, he learned on July 10 that the Mexican War had begun and that the United States Navy had raised the American Flag over Monterey. At Sonoma the Bear Flag had already been replaced the day before by the Stars and Stripes, brought by an officer from the U. S. S. Portsmouth. The Bears cheerfullt dropped the idea of independence and joined the force raised by the Navy for the conquest of California. The " Republic Of California " thus terminated its short existence.

The original Bear Flag was taken East by Commander John B. Montgomery of the Portsmouth and deposited in the Boston Navy Yard along with other souvenirs of the Mexican War. In 1858 it was returned to San Francisco, remaining there in care of the Society of California Pioneers until destroyed during the fire of 1906.

(From " The History of the United States Flag " by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.



11th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1846 to 7 - 3 1847.
TEXAS
28 STARS

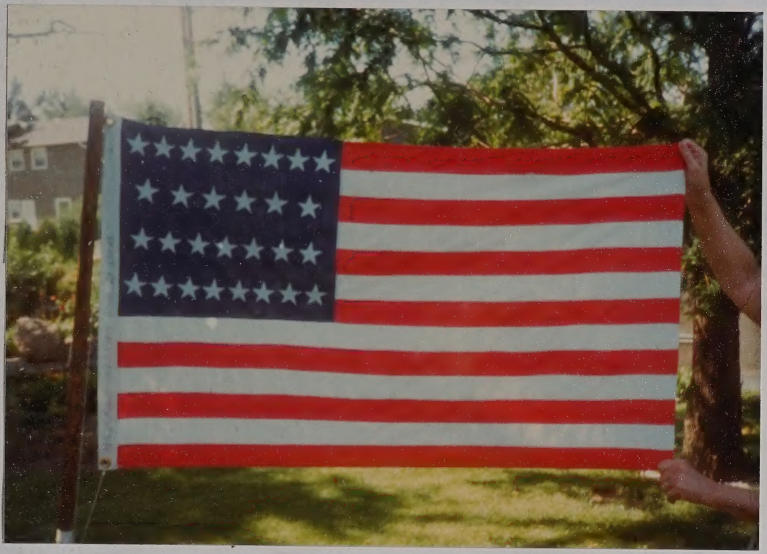
Because most of the nation's land and naval forces were already committed to action under the old banner with twenty - seven stars, the new Stars and Stripes did not come into widespread military use for some time.

While General Taylor was pushing the Mexican army back in the Southwest, President Polk's confidential agent, Thomas O, Larkin, was persuading the five hundred Americans in California to seek annexation to the United States. Commander John D. Sloat of the United States Navy added force to this argument. On July 7, 1846, he sailed into Monterey Bay and raised the American flag over the customhouse, claiming California for the United States. Two days later the short - lived California Republic came to an end when the Bear Flag was replaced by the Stars and Stripes at Sonoma. California now was an American territory, or rather, would be as soon as Colonel Kearny could march up from Santa Fe and force the final surrender. And that he did the following January.

In the meantime, General Taylor pressed his campaign in northeastern Mexico by occupying the towns of Monterrey, Saltillo, Victoria, and Buena Vista. This offensive was followed by the first large - scale amphibious operation in American history. On March 9, 1847, General Winfield Scott, with ten thousand men, landed at Vera Cruz on the Mexican east coast. After consolidating his position Scott launched a relentless drive into the interior, toward Mexico City.

Almost unnoticed in the excitement of war, Iowa was asking for admission as a state. Twice the Iowans rejected by popular vote Congressional attempts to provide them with a western boundry short of the Missouri River. Then finally Congress gave in and Iowa entered the Union December 26, 1846.

(From " Flags Of The U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



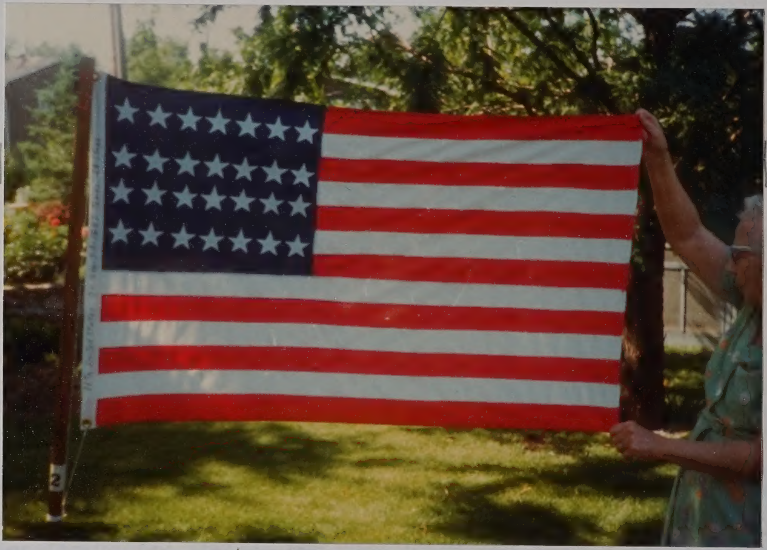
12th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1847 to 7 - 3 1848.
29 STARS.
IOWA.

The third and last official Stars and Stripes to fly during the Mexican War came into being July 4, 1847, when the twenty - ninth star was added for Iowa. Because of the press of war it found competition in many places with national banners having but twenty - eight stars or sometimes twenty - seven. Even President Polk's White House staff must have had a difficult time insuring that the flags used at official functions bore the correct number of stars.

In Mexico, flying banners that were now outdated, Generals Taylor and Scott delivered the final knockout blows to Santa Anna's outgunned and outfought army. Scott took possession of Mexico City September 14, 1847, ending his seven - month drive westward from Vera Cruz. On February 2, 1848, Mexico signed the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, accepting the Rio Grande boundry and ceding New Mexico and California to the United States in return for fifteen million dollars. At the conclusion of the war the Senate resolved unanimously " That the Vice - President be requested to have the flag of the United States first erected by the American army upon the palace in the capital of Mexico deposited for safekeeping in the Department of State of the United States. " This flag had twenty - eight stars arranged in four even rows of seven each.

The balance between free and slave states was restored in 1848 when Wisconsin, the fifteenth free state, entered the Union. (With the admission of Iowa the previous year this offset the two - state majority obtained by the South when both Florida and Texas entered the Union in 1845.) In terms of boundry settlements Wisconsin had fared poorly during its status as a territory. In 1818 the Chicago area had been cut from its southern border to give Illinois a Great Lakes port. Then in 1836 the Upper Peninsula had been awarded to Michigan to counterbalance that state's surrender of the Toledo strip to Ohio. The territorial government ask for internal improvements to offset these sizeable losses. When this request was ignored, Wisconsinites pressed for statehood as the only means of protecting their interests. The state was admitted May 29, 1848, the fifth and last commonwealth carved out of the Northwest Territory.

(From " Flags Of The U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



13th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1848 to 7 - 3 1851.
WISCONSIN.
30 STARS

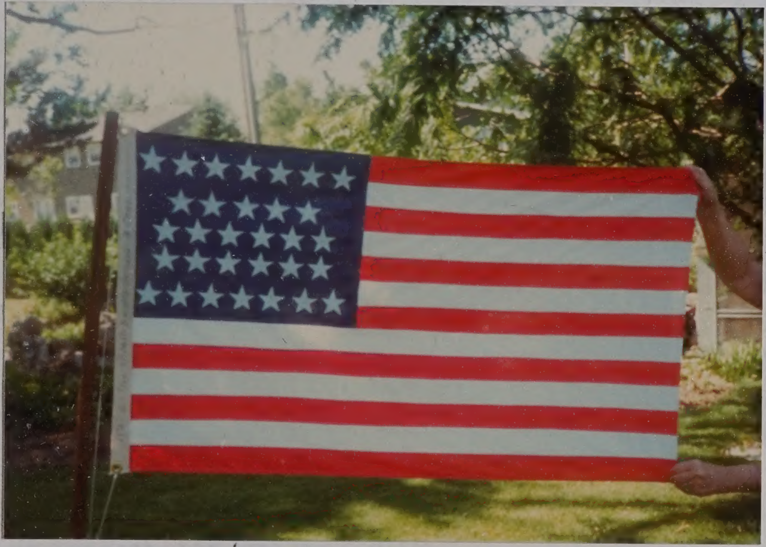
This was the last Stars and Stripes to fly while Polk was President. It was also the flag of Zachary Taylor, the twelfth President, who died sixteen months after his inauguration in 1849, and the banner of Millard Fillmore who succeeded him. It was not the flag of a president named David R. Atchison. Atchison, a proslavery Senator from Missouri, was president Pro Tempore of the Senate on March 4, 1849, when President - elect Taylor refused to take the oath of office because it was Sunday. Some historical thrill - seekers have therefore supposed that Atchison served as President of the United States for twenty - four hours. Actually, of course, Polk remained President until Taylor was sworn in at noon March 5.

The Mexican War had provided the United States with vast new stretches of territ -

ory in the West. Out of it the Southerners hoped to carve new slave states. Their plan started to go awry, however, when the discovery of gold in California attracted some eighty thousand adventurers within a few months, most of these forty - niners migrating from the North and West. Consequently, when a convention at Monterey drafted a state constitution late in 1849, the document prohibited slavery, California was petitioning for admission as a free state! Enraged Southerners vowed secession if slavery were excluded from California. The North was almost as firm against any further extension of slavery.

When disunion seemed inevitable, Henry Clay offered his gamous Compromise of 1850. For eight months Congress fought over Clay's proposals and then accepted them. The North agreed to (1) leave open the question of slavery in the new territories of New Mexico and Utah; and (2) give the South a stronger fugitive slave law. The South, in turn, agreed to (1) prohibit slave trade in the District Of Columbia, and (2) admit California as a free state. California entered the Union September 9, 1850. Civil War was averted for another decade and the course of empire had run from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

(From David Eggenberger " Flags of the U. S. A.)



14th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1851 to 7 - 3 - 1858
CALIFORNIA
31 STARS

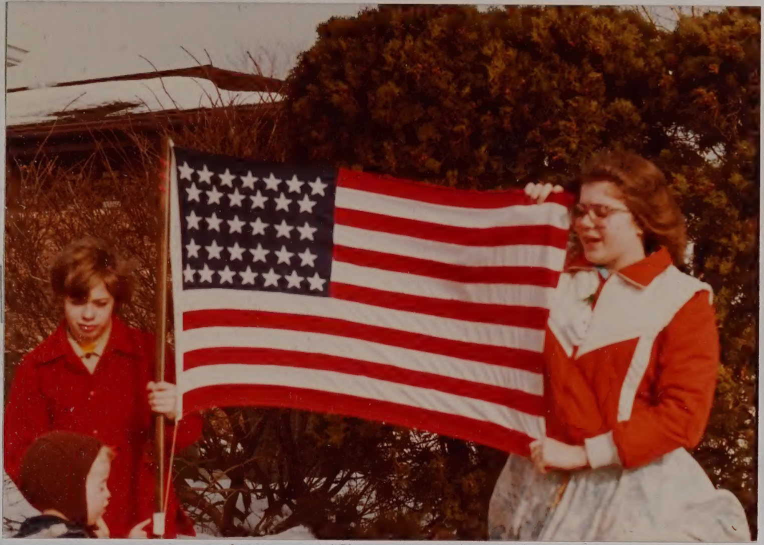
This is the flag of three Presidents -- Millard Fillmore, the thirteenth; Franklin Pierce, who defeated the military hero of the Mexican War, Winfield Scott, in 1852; and James Buchanan, elected in 1856. Buchanan was to be the last Democrat elected to the nation's highest office for twenty - eight years. In the next Presidential election the new Republican Party would win the first of six consecutive national administrations, a record unequaled in the history of modern American political parties. (Next longest record: the five straight victories won by the Democrats, 1932 - 1948.)

Abroad, the flag of thirty - one stars was the first American ensign to be displayed in Japan. On July 8, 1853, Commodore Matthew C. Perry sailed into Tokyo (Yedo) Bay under this banner and presented a letter from President Fillmore. Perry's flag is now in the Naval Academy Museum.

At home, the seven years under this flag might well be termed the era of the big build - up - a - relentless building toward catastrophe. It was the era of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, the underground railroad for fugitive slaves, bleeding Kansas, and the Dred Scott controversy. Most significant of all was the formation of a new political party, the Republican, dedicated to halt the expansion of slavery. Founded in 1854, the party nominated its first Presidential candidate, Fremont, two years later. Fremont ran a poor second to Buchanan. By 1858, however, the party had found a new spokesman, a craggy - faced, lanky lawyer from Illinois named Abraham Lincoln. On June 16 of that year Lincoln graphically analyzed the predicament of the nation; " A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

The admission of California as a free state in 1850 severely handicapped the South's efforts to horse - trade over the admission of additional new states. The free states now had a definate majority in both houses of Congress. As a result, when Minnesota asked for admission into the Union the Southern states could offer no more than token opposition. Minnesota was admitted May 11, 1858. The new federal - state governmental setup marked the fourteenth and last political organization to function over all or part of the land of sky - tinted water. Earlier governments in order of their appearance had been: France, England, Spain, the colony of Virginia, the Northwest Territory, and the territories of Louisiana, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and finally Minnesota.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



15th. UNITED STATES FLAG.

7 - 4 - 1858 to 7 - 3 - 1859.

MINNESOTA.

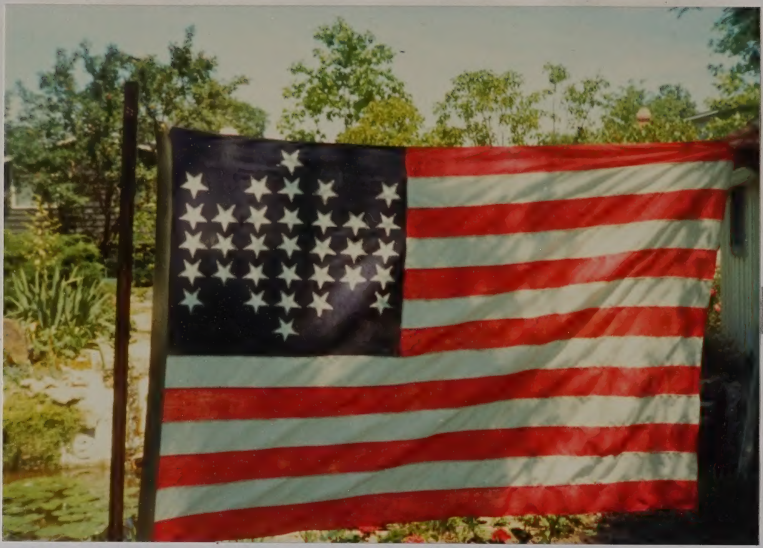
32 STARS

It was a time for strong words and firm action. But in all the land only one voice spoke with resolution and courage, that of Abraham Lincoln. And in the autumn Lincoln lost his bid for a seat in the Senate to the wquivocating Stephen Douglas. Meanwhile, in the White House, President Buchanan weakly fumbled away any chance there was of preserving the peace. The end of an era had come. This was to be the last Stars and Stripes under which North and South could reconcile their differences short of war.

Out on the West coast, a slavery controversy within the territory itself retarded movement for Oregon's statehood. Finnally, this issue as well as the new state constitution was submitted to the voters. Slaveholding was prohibited and the constitution ratified, both by large majorities. The largest vote, however, went in support of a measure prohibiting the admission of free Negroes into Oregon -- the same restriction that had delayed Missouri's entry thirty years before. But there was no quibbling now and Oregon entered the Union February 14, 1859.

Musical note: On April 4, 1859, a song written by Daniel D. Emmett was sung for the first time, in New York. The Song was " DIXIE."

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



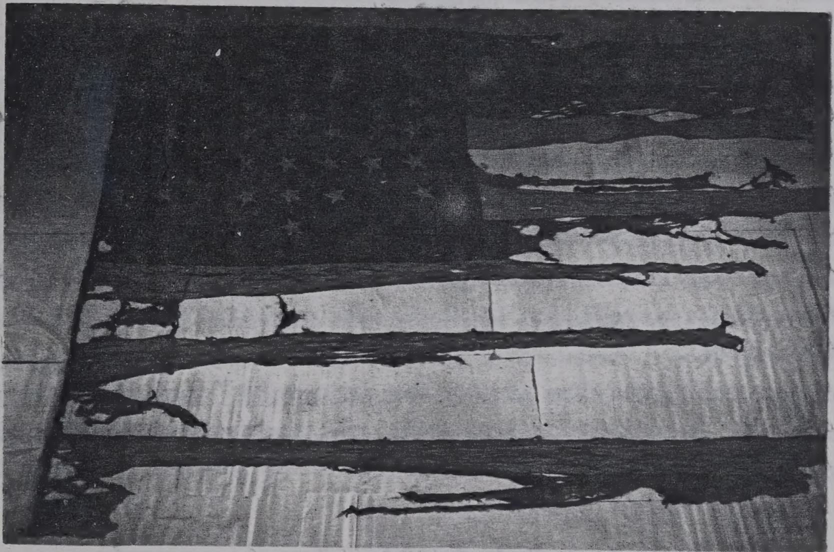
16th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
FORT SUMTER FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1859 to 7 - 3 - 1861 .
OREGON
33 STARS

On July 4th, 1859, thirty three states acknowledged their federal unity under this ensign. Less than two years later, eleven of these states had repudiated their allegiance to the Stars and Stripes and had formed their own independent government, the Confederate States of America, under their own flag. The long threatened breakup of the Union had come. The immediate cause was the Presidential election of 1860. Four major candidates were in the field, each with a different approach to the problem of slavery in the territories, the critical issue of the time. Abraham Lincoln (Republican) favored the prohibition of slavery expansion; Stephen Douglas (Northern Democrat) supported the doctrine of popular (" squatter ") sovereignty; John Breckinridge (Southern Democrat) upheld unlimited expansion of slavery; John Bell (Constitutional Union) believed in futher compromises. Although Lincoln received a minority of the popular votes, he won 180 electoral votes, more than double those of his nearest opponent, Breckinridge.

To the South, Lincoln represented the growing power of the federal government that was becoming more and more dominated by free states. Five free states in a row had entered the Union since Texas, the last slave state, had been admitted in 1845. The struggle to bring Kansas into the Union as a slave state had been hopelessly lost. And now Lincoln was elected to head a " Black Republican " administration. This was too much. The South would leave the Union. South Carolina seceded first (December 20, 1860) then Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas - all less than siz weeks later.

While the slave states were leaving the Union, Kansas was preparing for admission. Created as a territory by the bitterly disputed Kansas - Nebraska Act of 1854, the new state was to be slave or free depending upon the decision of the Kansans themselves. This doctrine of squatter sovereignty had produced six years of internal war as pro - slavery and antislavery factions fought to dominate " Bloody Kansas." For a time the settlers from the South seemed victorious. A convention at Lecompton drew up a constitution legalizing slavery. Tested twice by popular vote, the constitution won a majority the first time, and lost the second time. Nevertheless, in 1858 President Buchanan recommended that Congress admit Kansas as a slave state. The Senate voted to do so but the House balked, insisting that the Lecompton Constitution be resubmitted to popular vote. On the third try voters again rejected the document and the Southern cause was lost in Kansas. In 1859 a new constitution prohibiting slavery was framed at Wyandotte and ratified by popular vote, 10,421 to 5,530. Kansas entered the Union as a free state January 29, 1861.

(From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



Fort Sumter 33 star Flag (Garrison Flag. There were two flags at Fort Sumter in April, 1861, when the Confederates opened fire on the fort; the larger, known as the Garrison Flag, and the smaller, the Post Flag (not a storm flag as often stated). The best evidence indicates that the Garrison Flag was flying over the Fort at the time of the bombardment, April 12 - 13, 1861. Maj. Robert L. Anderson (later general) saved the flags, and upon his arrival in Washington with them, following the surrender of the fort, they were officially presented to him. He kept possession of them until his death and they were preserved by his widow until her death on February 25, 1905. Mrs. Anderson's will provided that the flags should be given to the War Department for safekeeping. Secretary of War William Howard Taft on March 26, 1905, accepted the flags. They were wrapped and displayed in glass cases in the War Department. In both flags the Union is in a fair state of preservation, but the remainder is badly tattered and torn and large parts are missing. Both Fort Sumter flags were transferred in 1955 from the Department of the army to the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. They are now on display at Fort Sumter National Monument, Charleston, South Carolina.

(From The History Of The United States Flag, by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.)

After the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse, April 9, 1865. The War was over.

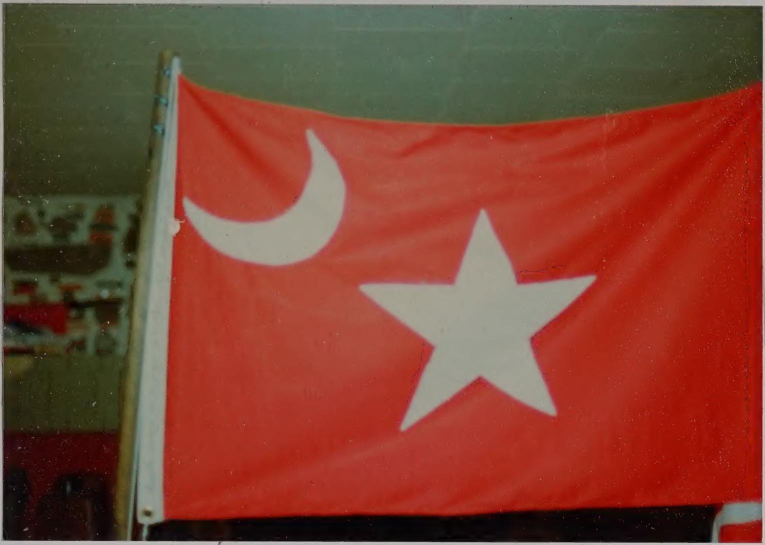
Lincoln's " house divided " prophecy of seven years before had been realized. " I do not expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other." And what it became was all free. Under the national flag of thirty - five stars secession and slavery were forever ended in the United States.

With a fine sense of the dramatic, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered Robert Anderson to Charleston, South Carolina.

> War Department, Adjutant General's Office
> Washington, March 27, 1865
>
> General Orders, No 50. Ordered, first, That at the [illegible] of noon, 14th of April, 1865, Brevet Major General Anderson will raise and plant upon the ruins of Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, the same United States flag that floated over the battlements of the fort during the rebel assult, and which was lowered and saluted by [illegible] and the small force of his command when the works were evacuated on the 14th of April, 1861...

On the historic day the flag raising took place with " suitable ceremonies " including a hundred gun salute. Unfortunately, the event commanded little public attention for only a few hours later Abraham Lincoln was shot as he sat in the President's box at Ford's Theater in Washington.

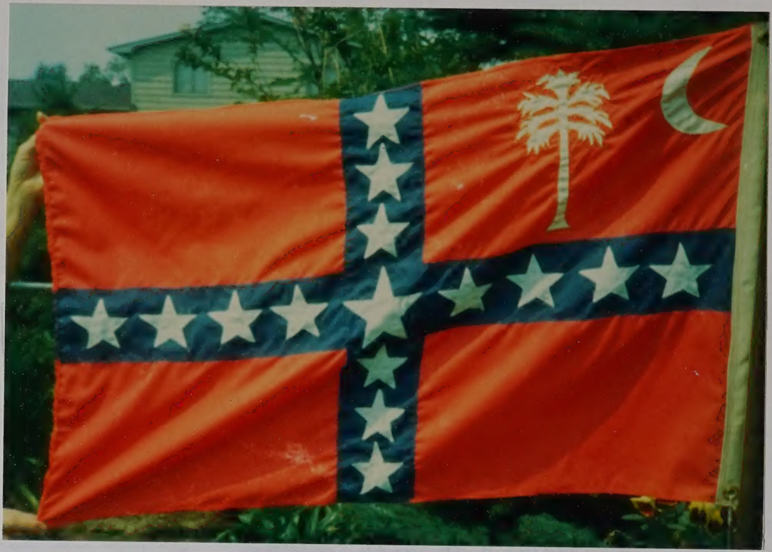
(From " Flags Of The U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
12 - 20 - 1860 to 1865.
UNOFFICIAL VARIANT
ENSIGN

Early in November of 1860 when news of Lincoln's election to the Presidency became known, palmetto flags of various designs were hoisted throughout South Carolina, On the thirteenth of the month a palmetto flag was hoisted on the State House itself. Three days later a ninety - foot ploe was erected, from the top of which flew a white flag with a green palmetto and a motto from the seal, " ANIMIS OPIBUSQUE PARATI " ("Ready in spirit and Resources "). On December 20 1860, the day South Carolina declared herself an Independent republic, some Charleston women presented a flag of red, six by eight, with a white star in the center and a white crescent in the upper hoist. This and similar red flags were flown by South Carolina ships until the end of the Civil War.

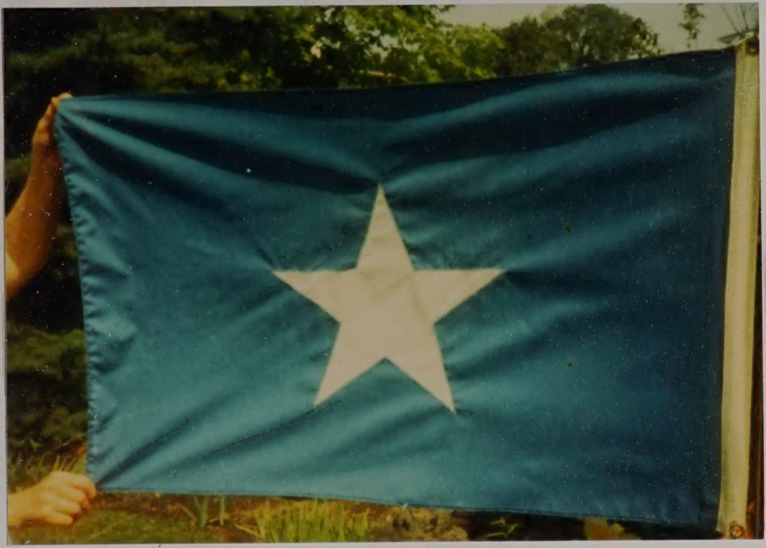
(From Whitney Smith "The Flag Book Of The United States.)



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
(Reconstructed - Unofficial)
12 - 20 - 1860 to 3 - 5 - 1861

Various unconfirmed reports indicate that the first flag to be flown by the new republic, probably unofficially, was red with the white crescent and palmetto in the upper hoist. Across the flag was a cross of blue with fifteen white stars to represent the slaveholding States, the central star for South Carolina being the largest. A similar flag presented by a South Carolina delegate to the Montgomery (Ala.) convention held in February 1861 which considered, among other matters, a design for a Confederate flag.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

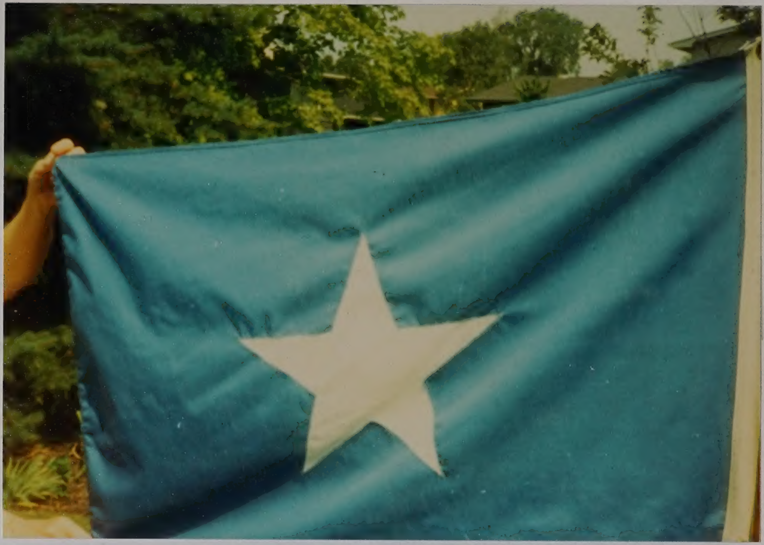


UNOFFICIAL.FLAG OF THE CONFEDERACY.
BONNIE BLUE FLAG..
1860 - 1861

Americans have hoisted flags to express their political sentiments since before the Revolution, and it is not surprising, therefore, to find a profusion of new banners accompanying the secessionist movement in the South. Hints of a desire for local sovereignty were given long before rebellion broke out, in such symbols as the 1845 flag of Florida. The real flowering of southern flags, however, began in November 1860 when the election of Lincoln to the Presidency caused widespread fear that the federal government would try to make changes in the institution of slavery. During the winter of 1860 - 1861 rallies and speeches were held throughout the south, and frequently the United States flag was replaced by a local banner.

By far the most common device in the new Southern flags was the star, a symbol of independence and sovereignth. By the spring of 1861 starry flags of rebellion had appeared in every southern State. Single - starred flags were flown to indicate that a particular State had severed its formal ties with the Union; see for example, the North Carolina flag, the Mississippi and Texas flags. The star was further popularised by the rousing song " The Bonnie Blue Flag," which was written and sung by Harry McCarthy, a comedian. The Bonnie Blue Flag itself was used, unofficially, throughout the South at this time. McCarthy composed the song after being inspired by the lone star banner raised when Mississippi seceded.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

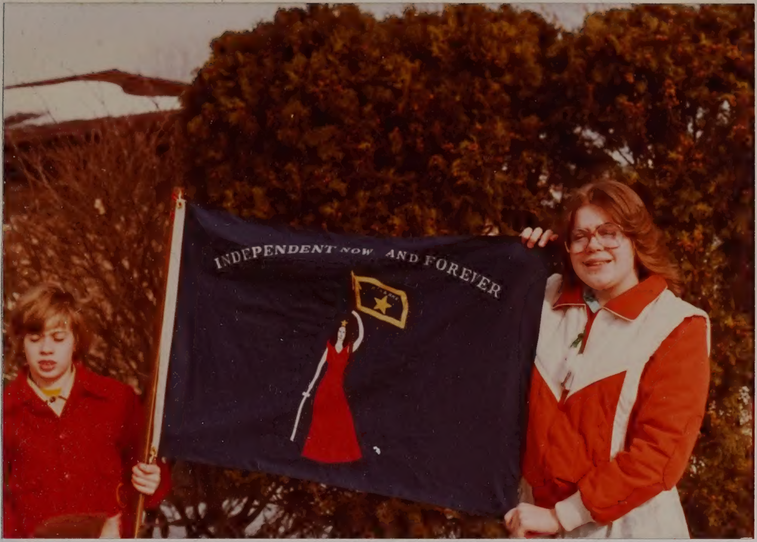


MISSISSIPPI REPUBLIC.

1 - 9 -- to 1 - 26 - 1861

The design of the flag of the last Republic of West Florida made a lasting impression on the South. The same design, which came to be known as the " BONNIE BLUE FLAG," was the basis for the first Texan national flag, and in the Civil War was frequently flown by Confederate Troops.

Mississippi was one of the States to recall this flag in its own, On January 9, 1861 when the State passed an Ordinance of Seccession removing it from the federal Union, a large BONNIE BLUE FLAG was haisted on the Capital building. Then on the 26th. of that month a national flag was adopted for the new republic.



Obverse

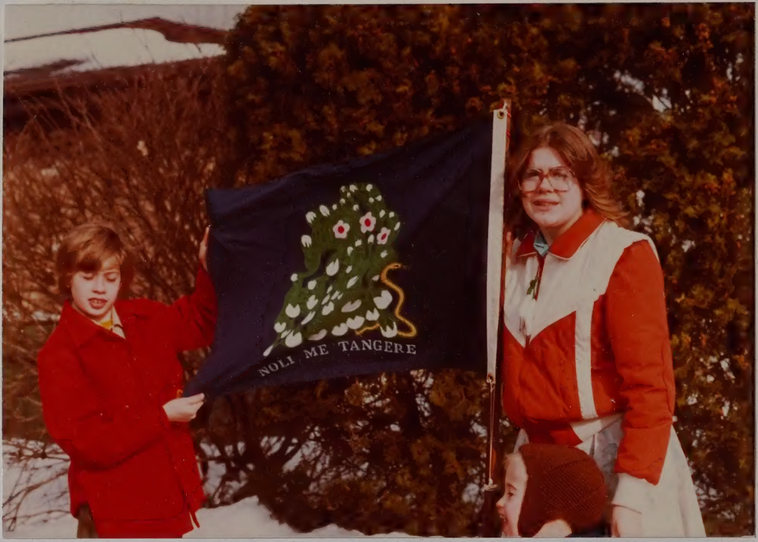
ALABAMA.

1 - 11 - 1861 to 2 - 8 1861

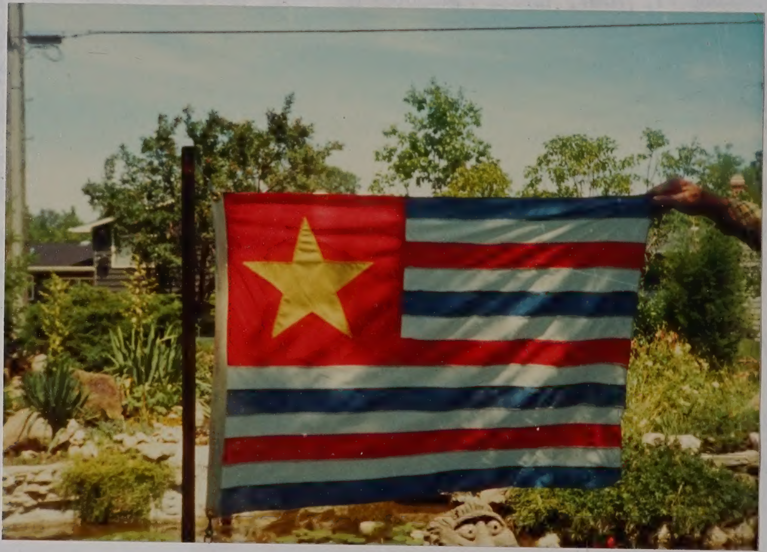
From January 11, 1861, until February 8, 1861, while Alabama was the independent Republic of Alabama, the only flag it had was one which was officially approved to be " raised over the Capitol, as indicative whether the Convention shall be in open session." This flag of which it appears only a single copy was ever made, had been painted by some young women of Montgomery for presentation on the day when Alabama seceded from the Union. On the obverse the Goddess of Liberty bears a sword and a single - starred flag. On the reverse, in the words of a contemporary commentator, " is a cotton plant to indicate the cource of our national wealth and beneath it is a rattle snake coiled to manifest our determination to defend our rights." The motto " NOLI ME TANGERE " (DARE NOT TOUCH ME") expresses the same idea.

In the history of the symbols of this State 1939 was a very important year. The flag which had flown during the period when Alabama was independent was returned from Iowa where it had been taken after the capture of Montgomery by Union troops in 1865.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



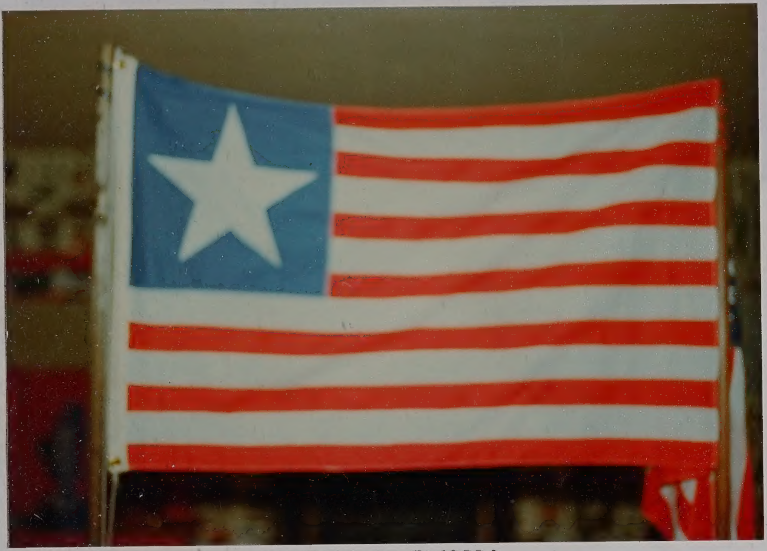
Reverse



LOUISIANA NATIONAL FLAG.
2 - 11 - 1861 to 3 - 23 - 1861

Despite its long service as an emblem of the State, the pelican was rejected in 1861 by the committee appointed to design a national flag for Louisiana. Instead the committee, cinsisting of Messrs. Elgee, Roman, and Briscoe, took as their inspiration the flag of the United States. As in Texas and Florida a single star, the symbol of sovereignty, was substituted for the constellation of stars in the national flag. In this case, however, the committee or perhaps their artist, C. A. DeArmas, while retaining the familiar stripes of red and white added stripes of blue. The symbolism created refers to the history of Louisiana; red, white, and blue are the colors of the flags of the United States and France, while red and yellow are the colors of Spain, all of which had once flown in the area. This flag was adopted on February 11, 1861 and after March 23rd., when Louisiana joined the Confederacy, it was transformed into a State flag. Even after Farragut captured New Orleans in 1862, the flag continued to fly in the northern part of the State.

From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



REPUBLIC OF FLORIDA.
GOVERNMENT FLAG,
1 - 13 to 9 - 13 1861.

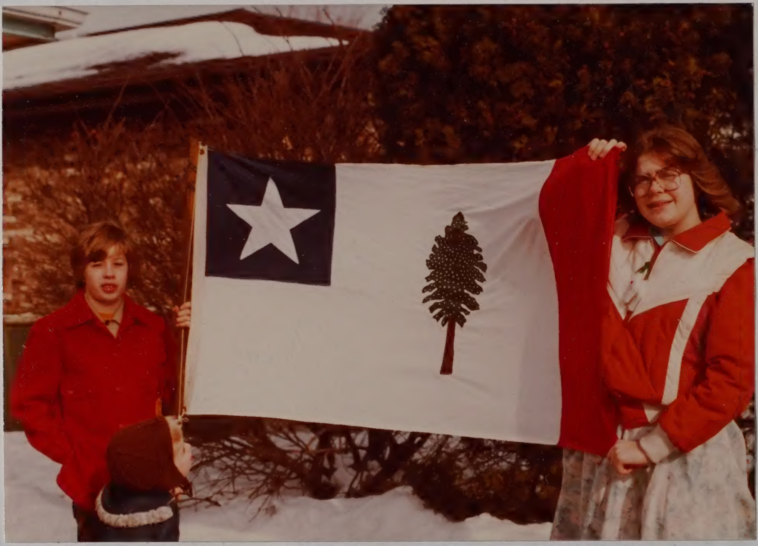
In **November** of 1860 the Congress of Florida in anticipation of Florida's leaving the Union, entertained a motion to create a new **National Flag.** No action was taken immediately, but on January 11th, 1861 when the State passed the Ordinance of Secession an unofficial flag made by the " Ladies of Broward's Neck was haisted over the Capital. It included red and blue stripes, a circle with stars, and the motto " The Rights of the South at All Hazards." Other flags were flown elsewhere, including the provisional flag prescribed by the commander of the Florida armed forces on January 13th. This flag was od the same design as the olf Texan Naval flag. On February 8th. the legislature delegated the power of creating a flag to the Governor. Since Florida soon joined the Confederacy, the flag selected by the Governor on September 13th. 1861 represented only a State instead of an independent nation.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

Another flag used by the new Republic was authorized February 8th., 1861 and used till September 13th.,1861 had a blue canton half the lenght of the fly in blue with a white oval with the words " In God Is Our Trust on the top of the oval and at the bottom was the word FLORIDA. In the center of the oval were ships, trees, stacked guns, flags, cannon balls, and a drum and a cannon. The balance of the fly was three equal stripes, two red and the center white.

GEORGIA.

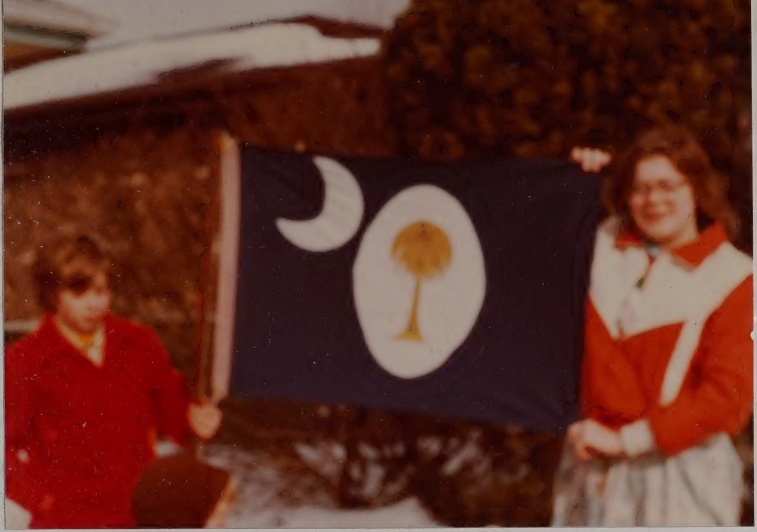
A number of flags were flown in Georgia during the Civil War era, but none apparently received legislative sanction. During the period when Georgia was independent, between January 19 1861 when it seceded from the Union and February of the same year when it joined the Confederacy, a white flag bearing the State seal in the center flew over the Capital. Another flag flown at that time was white with a red star. Georgian troops carried the Stars and Bars with the State seal within the circle of stars.



MISSISSIPPI REPUBLIC.
(RECONSTRUCTED)
January 26 1861 ?

On January 9, 1861 when the State passed an Ordinance of Secession removing if from the federal Union, a large BONNIE BLUE FLAG was hoisted on the Capital building. Then on the 26th of that month a national flag was adopted for the new republic, in which the white star on blue served as the canton. In the white fly was a large Magnolia Tree. the end of the fly had a red stripe. The size of the flag was 4 long by about two and a half wide.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

reconstructed.

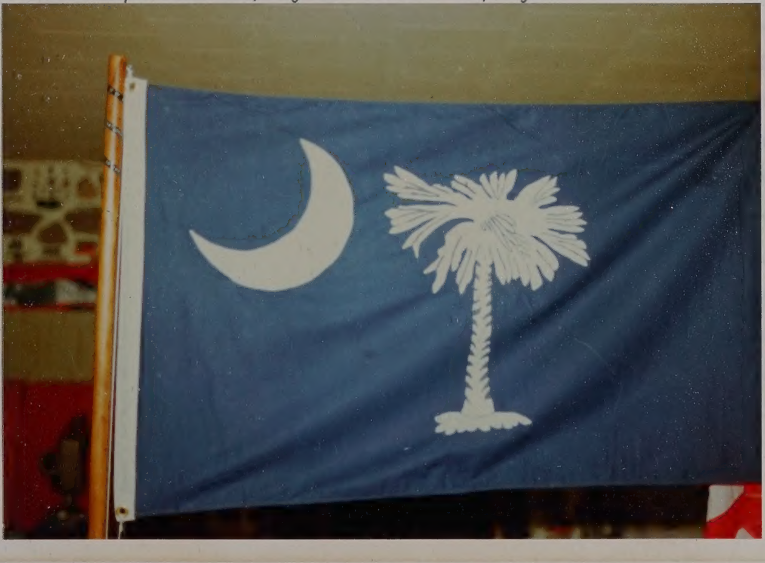
1 - 26 - 1861 to 1 - 28 - 1861.

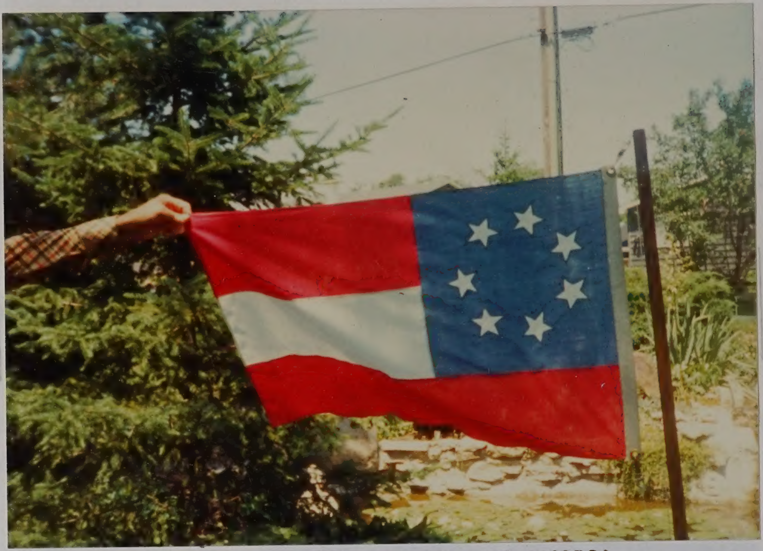
The first official action on a South Carolina flag of which we have record is the adoption on January 26. 1861 of a national flag, after a long debate over various alternatives. This flag lasted only one full day, however, because on the twenty - eighth the General Assembly changed its mind and modified the design. The flag design rejected had a dark blue field with a white cresent moon in the upper left corner near the staff, a white oval in the center with a yellow palmetto tree.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

1 - 28 - 1861 to present.

On the 28th. of January the General Assembly adopted the Blue Flag with a white cresent moon and a white palmetto tree in the center of the blue fly. After the Civil War South Carolina adopted this flag as its State flag.





UNITED CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
UNOFFICIAL NATIONAL FLAG & ENSIGN.
FIRST STARS AND BARS.
March to Sept. 1, 1861.

A bare three months after Lincoln's election, representatives of six of the seven seceding States gathered in Montgomery, Alabama, in February 1861 as a convention for the establishment of a new government. From all parts of the South designs were sent to the convention for adoption as a national flag to be displayed by the Confederate States of America. On February 9th., William P. Miles was appointed chairman of a flag committee whose task was to sift through the proposed designs and select the one which should become official. The committee made its report the next month, recommending a flag of three horizontal red and qhite bars (so called to distinguish them from the stripes of the U. S. flag.) with a blue canton bearing a white star for each southern State. This design met the requirements of the committee, which, obviously sensible to the essential elements of flag design, had insisted that " a flag should be simple, readily made, and above all, capable of being made up in bunting; it should be different from the flag of any other country, place, or people; it should be significant; it should be readily distinguishable at a distance; the colors should be well contrasted and durable; and, lastly, and not the least important point, it should be effective and handsome.

Although the flag committee made its report on March 5th., the convention voted to enter the record of its new flag in the Journal of the previous day, which had been Lincoln's inauguration. However, no formal action was taken to adopt this design then or later, and thus it remained, like the Continental Colors, a widely used but unofficial flag. Detailed specifications concerning the arrangement of the stars were never made, although the most common pattern was a ring of stars with or without one in the center. The number of stars varied from seven, at the time of the creation of the flag, to thirteen representing the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Both Kentucky and Missouir had two governments during the Civil War, one remaining loyal to the Union, the other participating in the Confederacy.

It will be noted that the influence of the United States flag on the design of the first Confederate flag was very strong; this was intentional, as most Southerners in 1861 felt that they had as much claim to the glories of the Stars and Stropes as persons from any other part of the country. In fact the flag committee mentions in its report that there were two principal types of designs submitted to it: " those which copy and preserve the principal features of the United States flag... (and) those which are very elaborate, complicated, or fantastical.

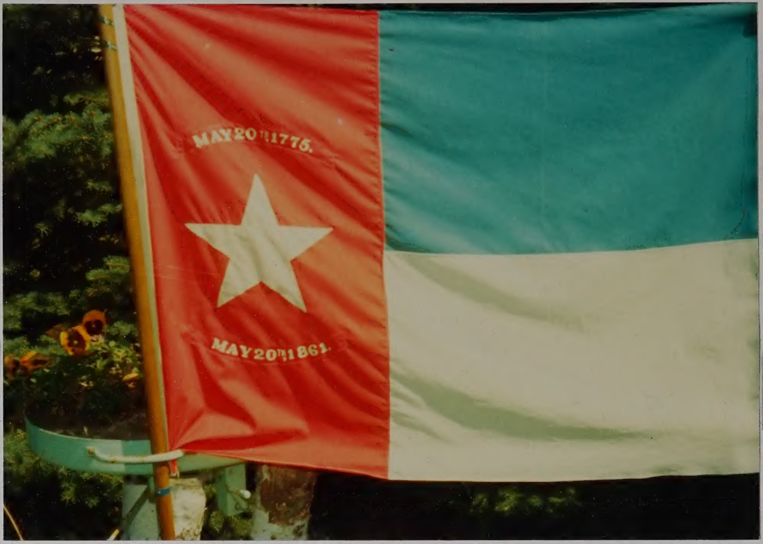
The first Stars and Bars, as the flag came to be called, rose over the State Capital in Montgomery on March 4th. It was raised by the granddaughter of former United States President John Tyler, who himself was a member of the provisional Confederate Congress. While the honor of having made this flag is shared anonymously by several Montgomery women, there is a dispute over the name of the creator of the design. Major orren Smith of North Carolina and Nicola Marschall, a prussian living in Alabama at the time of the convention, both claimed -- long after the Civil War -- to have submitted the winning design to the flag committee. The majority of those who have investigated the claims favor Marschall, although it is not impossible that both men conceived of the same flag simultaneously.

From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

VIRGINA.

On April 30th., 1861, soon after the Commonwealth of Virginia had seceded from the Union, it adopted a State flag. Unlike most of the southern State flags of the Civil War era, this design survived the war and has been used ever since. It received more precise form in 1931 and 1949 when first a drawing of the seal and then its colors were made official. Although the Governor is authorized to issue specifications for the correct dimensions of the flag as used for various purposes, no such action appears ever to have been taken. Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the flag is its white fringe, at the fly end.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.



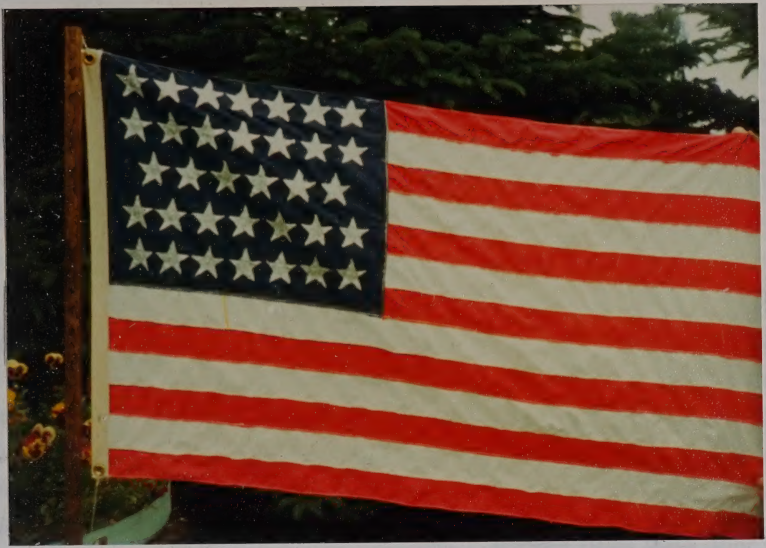
REPUBLIC OF NORTH CAROLINA.

6 - 22 - 1861 to 3 - 9 - 1885.

The upper date on this flag is significant in the fact that it represents what is reputed to be the first outright affirmation by American Colonists that they wished to reject the authority of the British completely. It has not been conclusively proven, however, that the citizens of the town of Machlenberg did in fact assert their independence in 1775 as claimed. The lower date May 20th., 1861 marks the secession of North Carolina from the Union.

During the brief period in which North Carolina was independent before joing the Confederacy, it did not fly an official flag although a legislative committee was working on a design. Their choice, prepared by William G. Browne, was adopted June 22nd., 1861. It was used during the Civil War, although probably after 1865 the lower date was omitted. In 1885 General Johnstone Jones introduced a measure into the General Assembly of the State which was ratified on March. 9th. It provided for a new flag which differed from the old one only in the dates shown on the flag and that red replaced the top blue stripe and blue replaced the red horizontal stripe. The lower date was changed to April 12th., 1776 and refers to the Halifax Resolves, adopted by the Provincial Congress, assembled at Halifax, which provided that representatives from the State " be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other colonies in declaring independency."

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



17th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
ARMY VARIANT, SILVER STARS. (34)
7 - 4 - 1861 to 7 - 3 - 1863.
KANSAS.

On April 6 the new President, Abraham Lincoln, notified South Carolina authorities that he was sending an expedition to provision the besieged garrison of Fort Sumter. Fearing a prolonged federal occupation, Confederate shore batteries opened fire on the fort six days later. After undergoing a bloodless bombardment of thirty - four hours Major Anderson hauled down the Stars and Stripes and surrendered. He and his men evacuated the fort April 14 after first running up the flag again and saluting it with fifty guns. (a Union soldier killed during the salute was buried on the premises.) The federal troops were then allowed to board United States Navy vessels anchored just outside the harbor.

This was open rebellion and Lincoln chose to regard it as such. He issued a call for seventy - five thousand volunteers, and more than that number of loyal militia responded. The South, now committed to force, put its own armies in the field. As tension built up, four more States withdrew from the Union in May and June and joined the Confederacy -- Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina. Four other slave states, caught between two fires, remained officially loyal to the Union -- Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri.

Within the Union itself, the national flag grew to thirty - four stars on July 4, 1861, when Kansas received recognition in the Stars and Stripes. But now the rising feeling of sectional hatred produced sentiment for removing one star for each state that had seceded. Some Union extremists made unauthorized flags with only twenty - three stars. Others decided to omit stars for the border states as well. And some even reduced the number of stripes to conform to their ideas of state loyalties.

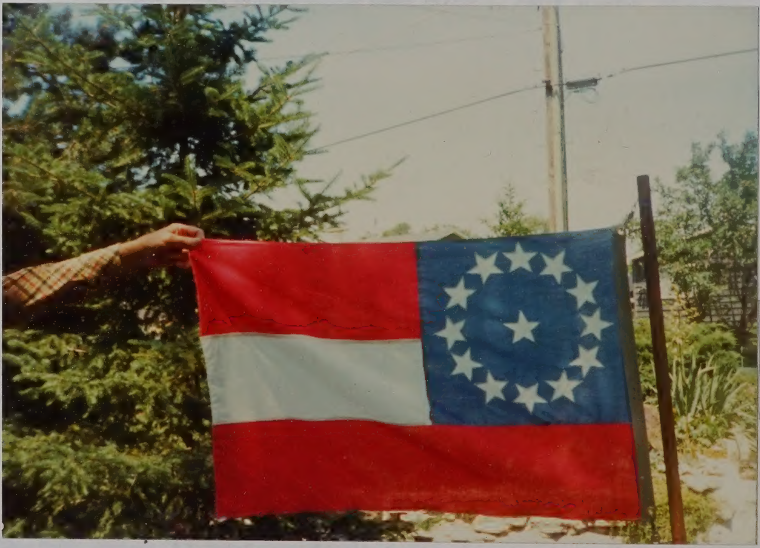
The oddest proposal came from Samuel F. B. Morse, the noted inventor of the telegraph and then president of the American Society for the Promotion of National Union. Morse suggested that the Stars and Stripes be divided into two flags -- the canton cut diagonally from top to bottom with twenty - three stars and the upper six and a half stripes retained by the North; the eleven stars below the diagonal and the lower six and a half stripes to go to the South. Both flags would then be finished out in white to make the conventional rectangle.

All such proposals received a firm " NO " from the President. Lincoln wanted no tinkering with the Stars and Stripes. This was not a war between two nations but insurrection of eleven states against the lawful federal government. According to his view the seceding states belonged in the Union and as a result the national flag should and would remain unchanged.

The national flag with thirty - four stars and the new Stars and Bars first served fire July 21, 1861, along a little creek in northern Virginia called Bull Run. After a day - long engagement the Union Army began to fall back and then stampeded toward Washington.

For some unknown reason the Army during the Civil War issued all its flags with Gold or Silver Stars. This was against the flag law of 1818.

(From " Flags of the U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)



UNITED CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
UNOFFICIAL NATIONAL FLAG & ENSIGN,
9 - 1861 to 5 - 1 - 1863.
SECOND STARS AND BARS.

Miles, the flag committee chairman, had never approved the design of the first Stars and Bars flag voted by his committee. Five months later he persuaded the convention to adopt a resolution: " That the Committee on the Flag and Seal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so changing the Confederate flag as to make it more distinctive and more distinguished from the flag of the United States." But the provisional government had other troubles to worry about, and finally voted to pass such action to the " permanent " Congress that was to come into existence at Richmond the following year.

The only change made in the second Stars and Bars flag was the addition of stars to represent the entered the Confederacy after the Montgomery convention.

This flag like the first Stars and Bars proved to be a poor choice of design as shown in the first and second battles of Bull Run. A more distinctive flag was required for use in the field. In the heat of battle it was often mistaken for the Stars and Stripes of the Union with the Confederate troops fireing on their own troops.

BATTLE FLAG.

The need for a distinctive battle flag arose from the first and second battles of Bull Run (Manasas) In addition to their very important roles as symbols of national achievement and aspiration and as inspirational forces for the soldier on the field, flags have long served the practical purpose of rallying troops, indicating the flow of battle to commanders, signaling manoeuvers, and generally facilitating the course of battle. Unfortunately, the great similarity of the Stars and Bars to the Stars and Stripes made the former a poor battle flag for the South because troops could not distinguish friend from foe. After Bull Run, therefore, Generals Joseph E. Johnston, G. T. Beauregard and G. W. Smith selected a design suggested by Colonel J. B. Walton, which eventually came to be used by almonst all the Southern armies. Slight variations existed; the number of stars was reduced, or they were painted gold instead of white, or the border of the saltire was omited.

The Battle Flag was made in three different sizes for the infantry, artillery, and cavalry, but invariably the proportions were square. This made for a lighter flag that would fly in a light breeze and a shorter one than the usual military colors, so that it would be less likely to be torn by bayonets or tree branches. The brilliant colors and simple but bold arrangement guaranteed that the flag would be recognizable from a great distance. Many other flags were used by the Confederacy on the battlefield, especially State regimental colors, but the Battle Flag, although it was never officially recognized by the Confederate government, came to represent the Southern cause to most people.

The Battle Flag came to be the canton or Union for the first official Confederate flag.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)

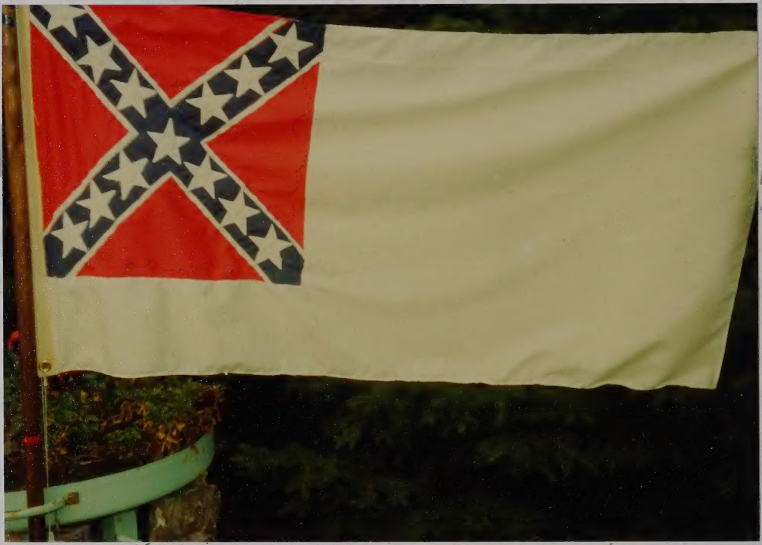
CHOCTAW INDIANS.

C 1861 - C 1864

(unofficial; reconstructed)

A blue flag with a white circle around a large red circle containing three arrows, a bow and a calumet was the flag of a troop of Chotaw Indians from the Choctaw nation. This troop fought for the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. The original flag is lost, but a replica is displayed in the Oklahoma Historical Society Museum in Oklahoma City. It was this flag, together with an Osage shield, which inspired the design for the present Oklahoma State Flag.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The U. S. A.)



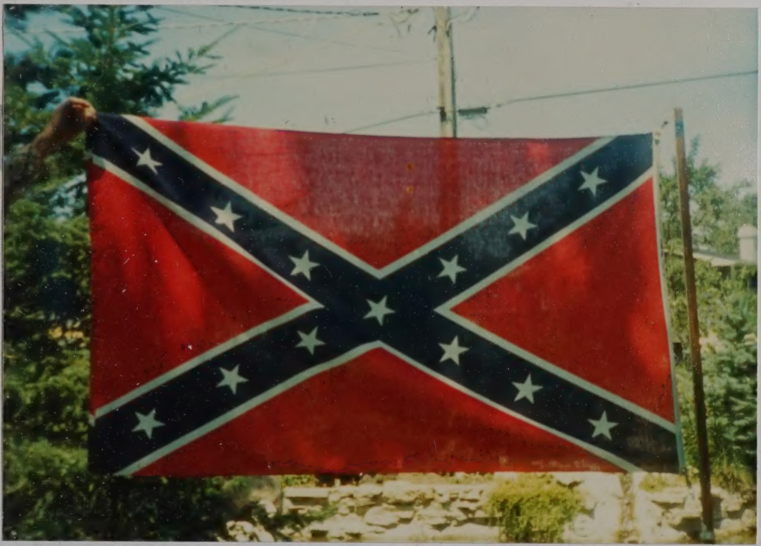
UNITED CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
FIRST OFFICIAL STATE & NATIONAL FLAG.
5 - 1 - 1863 to 3 - 4 - 1865.

The design of the naval ensign was apparently first suggested by the editor of the SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS in April 1863. At that time the Confederate Congress, which had replaced the provisional government in 1862, was debating a report concerning an official national flag, which had been submitted to it by uts flag committee, As a replacement for the Stars and Bars -- a flag not only without official sanction and distinctiveness in battle, but unfortunate in the eyes of many for being modeled after the United States flag -- many designs were considered. One of these was white with a black horse, symbolizing the fact that Southerners were equestrians. At last the committee proposed a national flag vaguely similar to the **Battle Flag.** Its red field was divided by a white saltire and in the center appeared a rising yellow sun on a blue shield. The Senate rejected this flag and approved instead a flag with horizontal stripes of white, blue, and white and the Battle Flag as a canton. The version finally approved on May 1, 1863 as the first official national and state flag of the Confederacy. was the same, omitting only the blue stripe in the middle.

This flag was known variously as the " Stainless Banner," the " White Man's Flag." or the " Jackson Flag " because it civered the coffin of General Stonewall Jackson soon after its adaption. Although the design pleased those who had objected to the Stars and Bars, the new flag was not altogether a happy choice. The omission of the blue stripe left a wide white field which was easily soiled and might be mistaken for a flag of truce or, at sea for the White Ensign of the British Navy.

The proportions for the National flag were 1 X 2, and the proportions for the Navy ensign were 2 X 3.

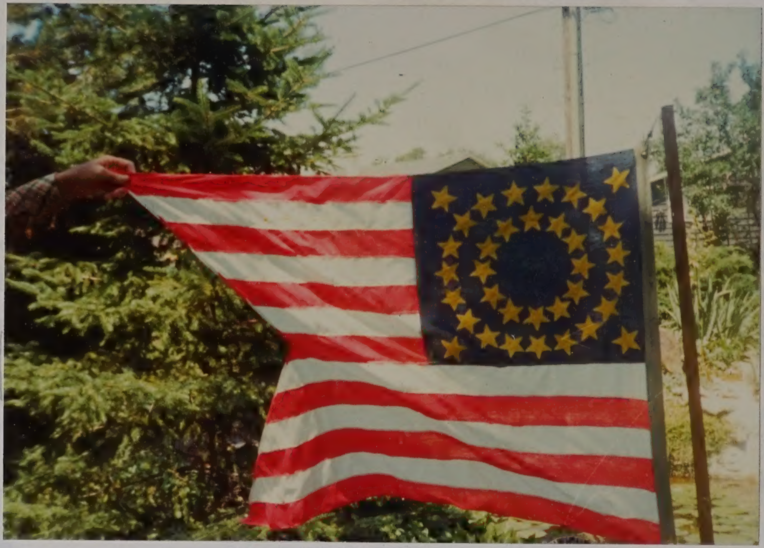
(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



UNITED CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
NAVY JACK, 5 - 26 - 1863 to 8 - 1865.
Proposed Confederate National Flag 3 - 1861

In the twentieth century an erronoeus idea about the design of the Battle Flag has become very common. The form now sold in stores and illustrated in many books is restangular rather than square and lacks the narrow white border around the outside. This flag was never used as a Battle Flag; in fact it was the Navy Jack of the Confederate vessels. Created on May 26th., 1863 by Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory. In the same order Mallory had provided for a pennant and a Naval Ensign for the Confederate Warships, the same design as the first Official National Flag except ofr the proportions which were 2 X 3.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.)



18th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
ARMY CAVALRY GUIDON VARIANT
7 - 4 - 1863 to 7 - 3 - 1865.
WEST VIRGINIA.
35 Gold Stars

In the North, the national flag grew to thirty - five stars on July 4, 1863, when a star was added for the new state of West Virginia. Two years earlier the north - western counties of Virginia had repudiated secession and organized their own Unionist government (with a constitution providing for gradual emancipation of slaves). The splinter state was recognized by the federal government and admitted to the Union June 20, 1863 -- the only state formed out of an existing one without the consent of the older commonwealth.

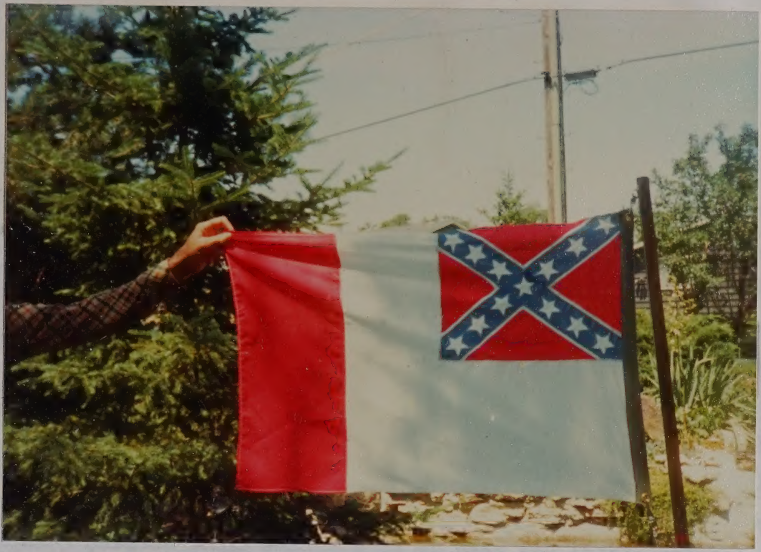
This new banner received little recognition . Pressed by the demands of War, most Northern troops did not receive the flag with thirty - five stars and continued to carry flags of 33 stars.

(From " Flags Of The U. S. A. by David Eggenberger.)

Civil War 35 Star Flag. When the Civil War began the 33 star flag was the flag of the nation, although the admission of Kansas on January 29,1861, as the 34th State made the 34 star flag official after July 4 of that year. During the war two more States were admitted -- West Virginia on June 20, 1863, and Nevada on October 31, 1864 -- thus making 36 States in the Union before the end of the War. The 35 star flag was flown during the last two years of the War, probably longer and more extensively than any other one during the Civil War.

A s5 star Army Guidon was flown on the Funeral train that brought President Lincoln's body back to Springfield, from Washington, D. C. in 1865.

(From " The History of the United States Flag by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.)



UNITED CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
3 - 4 - 1865 to May 1865.
LAST FLAG.

The first official State and National Flag had proved to be an unhappy choice because of the large white fly which was easily soiled and might be mistaken for a flag of truce or, at sea, for the White Ensign of the British Navy. To remedy its defects, Major Arthur L. Rogers of the Confederate Artillery proposed changing the proportions from 1:2 to 2:3 and adding a red stripe at the end of the fly. Such a flag was officially approved by the Confederate Congress on March 4th., 1865, only a few examples were actually made since the war was terminated little more than a month later.

(From Whitney Smith " The Flag Book Of The United States.")

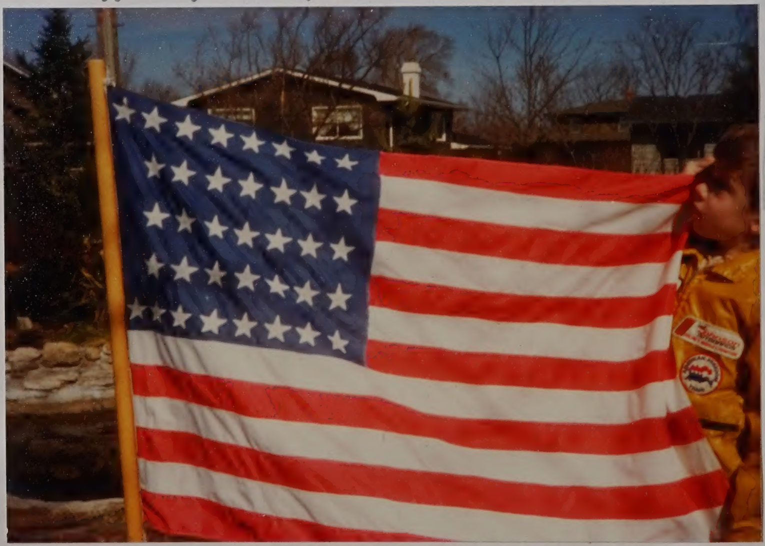
19th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1865 to 7 - 3 - 1867
NEVADA, 36 STARS

The first postwar change in the flag was the addition of the thirty - sixth star, for Nevada, July 4, 1865. Created as a territory in 1861. Nevada was allowed to enter the Union October 31, 1864, even though its population was only about twenty thousand, less than one - sixth of the number required for a single representative in the House at that time. Congress granted statehood so quickly because it wanted added support for ratification of the thirteenth Amendment. The Sagebrush State did its part and the new amendment abolishing slavery went into effect December 18, 1865.

Under the flag of thirty - six stars Tennessee became the first member of the late Confederacy to regain its full rights in the Union (July 24, 1866). The readmission of all other seceded states was held up by a bitter fight between President Johnson and Congress over reconstruction policies. Meanwhile, far to the north, Alaska became United States soil on April 9, 1867, when the Senate voted to pay Russia $7,200,000 for " Seward's Folly."

When Nebraska sought entrance into the Union it provoked another clash between the executive and legislative branches of the national government. Like Nevada, the Cornhusker State had won statehood approval from Congress in 1864. But the Nebraskans were hesitant about entering the Union. (They had voted against it four years earlier.) Finally, in 1866 a state constitution was framed and ratified. At first Congress rejected the document because it enfranchised only white men. When the territorial legislature gave assurances that " white " meant any color whatsoever, Congress voted to admit Neb raska. President Johnson promptly vetoed the act, only to have it passed over his veto. At length Nebraska entered the Union on March 1, 1867.

(From David Eggenberger " Flags of the U.S. A.)



20th. UNITED STATES FLAG.

7 - 4 - 1867 to 7 - 3 - 1877.

NEBRASKA

37 STARS

For the next ten years this Stars and Stripes waved over a nation struggling to throw off the painful effects of the Civil War -- political, economic, social.

In politics it was a decade of complete Republican domination. The first President to serve under the flag of thirty - seven stars was Andrew Johnson, a Tennessee Democrat who succeeded to office upon the death of Lincoln. But Johnson was powerless in the face of a runaway Republican Congress led by radicals who insisted on punishing the South. Three harsh reconstruction bills in a row were passed over the President's veto and in 1869 Johnson escaped conviction on impeachment by the narrow margin of one Senate vote. In the Presidential election that November, Republican candidate General Grant polled 214 out of 294 electoral votes. Grant's reelection in 1872 was notable as the first Presidential election in which every state chose its electors by popular vote. It was also unusual in that Grant's chief opponent, Horace Greeley, died before the Electorial College could meet after the election. As a result, his sixty - three electorial votes from six states were divided among four other candidates. Four years later the Presidential election became even more confused when double sets of electorial college returns were received from Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. With nineteen electorial votes in dispute neither Republican Rutherford B. Hayes nor Democrat Samuel J. Tilden had enough votes to claim election. A special commission of fifteen members was then established to rule on the problem -- five each of senators, representatives, and justices of the Supreme Court, Politically, eight were Republicans, seven Democrats. To no one's great surprise the commissioners voted to settle the dispute along strictly party lines, and Hayes was declared President, March 2, 1877, two days before inauguration time. Meanwhile the once rebellious states were gradually readmitted as they complied with Congress' demands of political penance -- six of them in 1868 over President Johnson's veto -- Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana; and the four remaining sinners in 1870 -- Virginia, Mississippi, Texas, and Georgia (for the second time). Tennessee had rewon statehood rights in 1860. Thus, the third session of the forty - first Congress, convening in December 1870, was the first since 1860 in which every state was represented. Formal reconstruction finally April 24, 1877, when President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the last occupation outpost, New Orleans.

Another signpost of returning normalcy was the election of a Democrat House in 1874, the first in fifteen years. (At the next midterm election, in 1878, the Democrats captured control of both houses.) Contributing to the Republican slide was the financial panic of 1873 and the evil smell of corruption and scandal that pervaded Grant's second term.

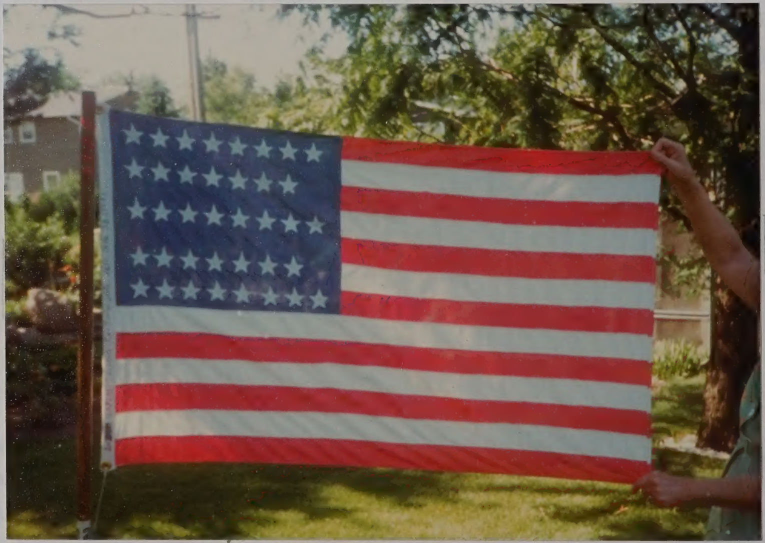
On May 30, 1868, the flag of thirty - seven stars flew over the first observance of Decoration, or Memorial Day -- an expression of respect designated by the Grand Army of the Republic (Union veterans). Another note of national solidarity was sounded May 10, 1869, when the Atlantic - to Pacific railroad connection was completed at Promontory Paint, Utah. The whole country celebrated the driving of the final golden spike. And, finally, two constitutional amendments became law -- the fourteenth, giving the Negro civil rights (1868), and the fifteenth, granting him **the right to vote** (1870).

One hundred years after its founding the United States admitted its thirty - eighth state, Colorado, on August 1, 1876. In the century just closed twenty - five new states had entered the Union, almost double the original number. In terms of area and population, expansion was even more pronounced. According to the first federal census (1790), the flag of thirteen stars waver over an area of 892,135 square miles and 3,929,214 people. Now the Stars and Stripes represented more than 3,000,000 square miles and more than 40,000,000 people.

Reflective military note: In May, 1871 United State's naval vessels demolished five Korean forts in an effort to secure treaty relations with that nation. The task force finally retired without forcing an agreement from the Koreans. A more friendly approach secured a treaty of commerce and amity eleven years later.

This flag of thirty - seven Stars and Stripes was the CentennialFlag.

(From David Eggenberger's Flags of the U. S. A.)



21st. UNITED STATES FLAG.

7 - 4 - 1877 to 7 - 3 - 1890

THE CENTENNIAL STATE

COLORADO.

38 STARS.

On July 4, 1877 Colorado's star, was added to the national flag. The newest member of the Union thus became the Centennial State in a dual sense. Its admission the year before was on the hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and now its representation in the Stars and Stripes marked the centennial of the adoption of the national flag.

Five Presidents served under the thirty - eight stars, equaling the number associated with the secondStars and Stripes (1795 - 1818). Rutherford B. Hayes finished his term in 1881 and was succeeded by another Republican, James Garfield. Four months after his inauguration Garfield was shot by a disappointed office seeker (Charles Guiteau) and died September 19. His vice - president, Chester A. Arthur, finished out the term. In a rough and tumble campaign in 1884 Grover Cleveland was elected. the first victorious Democratic nominee since Buchanan's triumph twenty - eight years earlier. Then four years later Cleveland was defeated by Benjamin Harrison, although the Democratic candidate received a clear plurality of the popular votes cast.

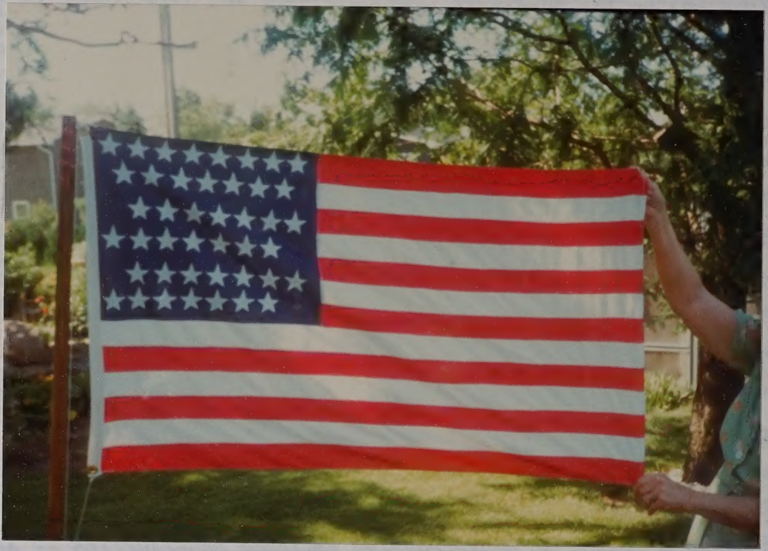
Despite the relay ráce in the White House it was an unusually quite thirteen years for the nation and its flag. The loudest noise came from the hammering of railroad spikes as 1880 introduced a period of unprecedented railroad construction -- sixty - nine thousand miles of track laid in ten years. In 1882 Lieutenant Adolphus W. Greely, a Massachusetts soldier and explorer, carried the Stars and Stripes to within 497 miles of the North Pole. (83° 24'), the northernmost point yet attained. Unfortunately, two relief expeditions failed to reach Greely's party and sixteen of the twenty - three men in the group died of starvation on Cape Sabine before they could be rescued.

At home a financial crisis in 1884 caused almost eleven thousand banks to fail during the ensuing depression. Wage cuts provoked a wave of strikes and walkouts that reached a new nineteenth - century peak in 1886 with more than six hundred thousand workers out.

In June, 1887 President Cleveland enraged the Grand Army of the Republic by approving a War Department order for the return to the South of battle flags captured during the Civil War. After a week of angry protests by " bloody shirt " politicians and veterans, the President revoked the order on the grounds that such action was properly a function of Congress. In 1905, during the administration of Therdore Roosevelt, the flags were returned without protest.

When Cleveland was serving as a lame duck President (his first term) he signed an omnibus statehood bill on February 22, 1889, providing for the admission of four states -- North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington. In November all four states were admitted -- both Dakotas on the second, Montana on the eighth. and ashington three days later. Then just before the four stars were added to the flag, Idaho jained the omnibus states on July 3, 1890. The last recesses in the once - remote Oregon country were now filled in by full-fledged states.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags Of The U. S. A.)



22nd. UNITED STATES FLAG.
NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MONTANA, WASHINGTON, AND IDAHO.
7 - 4 - 1890 to 7 - 3 1891.
43 STARS.

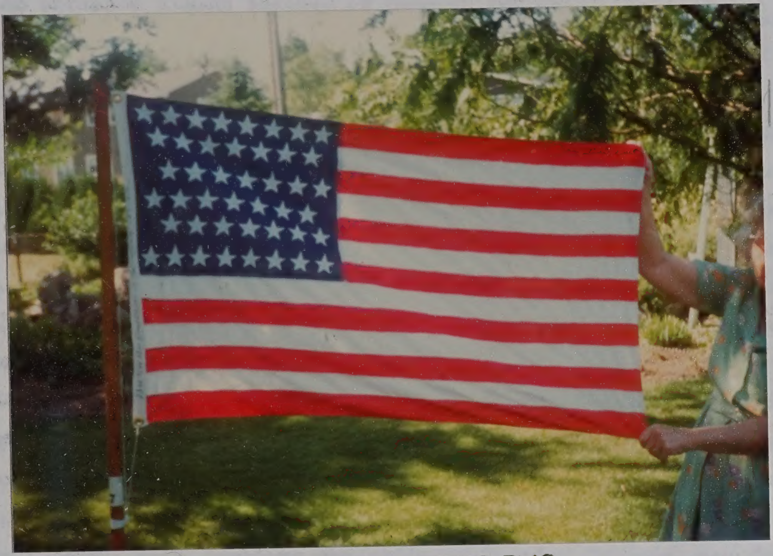
The correct official flags that flew over the Independence Day celebrations in 1890 showed the addition of five new stars in the canton, the thirty - ninth through the forty - third. These honored five new states -- North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, and Idaho.

Unfortunately, few of the Stars and Stripes that flew that July 4 -- and on many of the succeeding days -- showed the correct number of stars. When the four omnibus states entered the Union in November 1889, many flag makers prepared banners with forty - two stars in anticipation of the forthcoming Kuly 4 change. But with the last - minute admission of Idaho on July 3 all such flags became unauthorized. Normally a number of correct flags would have been manufactured, but just six days later (July 10) President Harrison signed a bill admitting Wyoming to the Union. Now, with the sure knowledge that all forty - three starred flags would be obsolete in a year, few people bothered about displaying the correct Stars and Stripes. As a result a bewildering variety of national flags represented the United States for almost a year: some with forty - two stars; a few with the correct number forty - three; others jumping the gun with forty - four stars, and, as usual, a host of unauthorized and obsolete banners with lesser numbers of stars.

Monetary note: The controversial fifty - first Congress (creator of the sky - high McKinley Tariff) adjourned in 1891 as the first " billion dollar " spending Congress in the nation's history.

Sports note: In 1891, at springfield, Massachusetts, Dr. James Naismith invented basketball, the only major American sport with a purely American Origin.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags Of The U. S. A.)



23rd. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1891 to 7 - 3 - 1896.
WYOMING.
44 STARS.

The flag of forty - four stars came into being July 4, 1891, when Wyoming's star was added to the canton. At that time Benjamin Harrison was serving as the twenty - third President of the United States. When Harrison sought reelection the following year he was defeated by Grover Cleveland, who had been the twenty - second President. The question then arose: Was Cleveland in his second term still the twenty - second President or was he now the twenty - fourth? Not a momentous problem, it is true, but one that persisted until 1950 when the Congressional Directory, the last major hold - out, decided that Cleveland was really two Presidents, the twenty - second and twenty - fourth. Thus, in 1897 William McKinley became the twenty - fifth, and so on.

Under the flag of fourty - four stars the nation's gigantic industrial expansion was suspended temporarily by another economic depression. A stock market crash on June 27, 1893, led to the failure of many banks and commercial houses, wage cuts, labor strife, and the typical business stagnation. One of the features of this depression was Jacob Coxey's army of unemployed, which marched from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington.

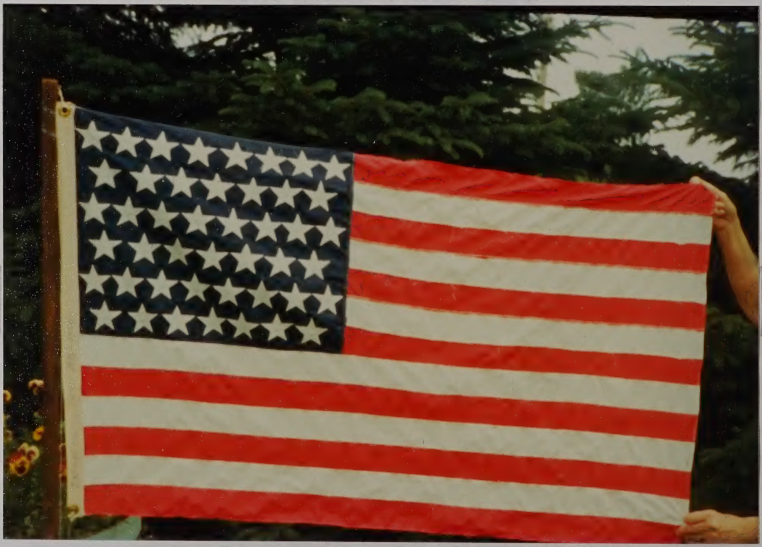
Here it was spurned as a " nuisance " and its leader arrested for trespassing on the Capital grass.

The last combat arm of the United States granted the right to carry the Stars and Stripes was the cavalry. The artillery and infantry had received such authorization before the Civil War, the engineers in 1866, and the Marine Corps ten years later. From 1863 to 1865 the cavalry had carried swallow - tailed guidons bearing the Stars and Stripes but this privilege was revoked by General Philip Sheridan after the war. In 1877 the War Department ordered cavalry regiments to carry a yellow standard charged with the national coat of arms. Then in 1895, at the instigation of the Quartermaster General, the Army ordered that for cavalry regiments " The national standard of Stars and Stripes, as described for flags, will be made of silk, 4 feet fly and 3 feet on the lance... " The last important change in military flags as such came in1904 when the regimental designation was removed from the national flag and placed on a silver band on the staff or pike.

On January 4, 1896, Utah was admitted to the Union, ending a lond dispute between the federal government and the Mormon church over marriage laws. The Mormon ban of 1890 against polygamous marriage was now written into the new state constitution.

Holiday note: Labor Day, the first Monday in September, became a legal holiday by act of Congress on June 28, 1894.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



24th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1896 to 7 - 3 - 1908
45 STARS.
UTAH.

Three Presidents served under this banner. President Cleveland's second term expired in 1897. He was followed by William McKinley, inaugurating fourteen years of unbroken Republican control of the Presidency and both houses of Congress. McKinley was re-elected in 1900 but was assassinated by an anarchist (Leon Czolgosz) the following year and succeeded by his vice - president, Theodore Roosevelt. The vigorous and popular Roosevelt won easily in 1904 over a Democratic party split by internal dissension. Meanwhile, the nation enjoyed a decade (1897 - 1907) of widespread prosperity.

In 1898 the United States began its thirty - third consecutive year of peace, the longest stretch in the nation's history without a major war. But at 9:40 P.M. of February 15 the quiet was suddenly shattered. In the harbor of Havana, Cuba, the battleship Maine exploded, killing two officers and 258 enlisted men. (When the Maine's hull was raised in 1911 examination showed that the cause of the explosion was external. The ensign that had been lowered at sunset on February 15 was recovered from its locker. The jack, found rolled up at the foot of the jackstaff ready for hoisting the following morning, was also recovered. Both flags arenow preserved in the Naval Academy (Museum at Annapolis.)

For three years Americans had worried about the great suffering in Cuba during that island's revolt against Spanish rule. This feeling, plus the cry " Remember the Maine," now produced a wave of anti - Spanish sentiment that was inflamed by the yellow journalism of many American newspapers. President McKinley tossed the ball to Congress and that body formally declared a state of war in existence as of April 21, 1898. The ended 114 days later, with fighting generally restricted to Cuba, and to Manila Bay in the Philippines. At the peace table Spain freed Cuba and ceded Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam to the United States. In return, the United States paid twenty million dollars to Spain for governmental buildings erected in these possessions.

The Stars and Stripes had now become the flag of a great imperial power with all the obligations and anxieties attendant upon such a position. Immediately, new problems popped up, These produced the first application of the " big stick," in Theodore Roosevelt's phrase, in Latin America, in the Philippines (during Aguinaldo's insurrection of 1899 to 1902), and in China (during the Boxer rebellion in 1900). Additional responsibilities were taken on in 1903 when the United States signed a treaty with the new Republic of Panama, obtaining the right to build a canal across the isthmus there.

Dramatic evidence of new found power and prestige came in 1906 when President Roosevelt visited Panama and Puerto Rico aboard the battleship Louisiana, the first President to travel beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. There could be no more doubt about the ability of the United States to protect its citizens wherever the Stars and Stripes flew in the world. Further proof came 1907 - 1909 when a fleet of sicteen United States battleships carried the banner of forty - five stars around the world.

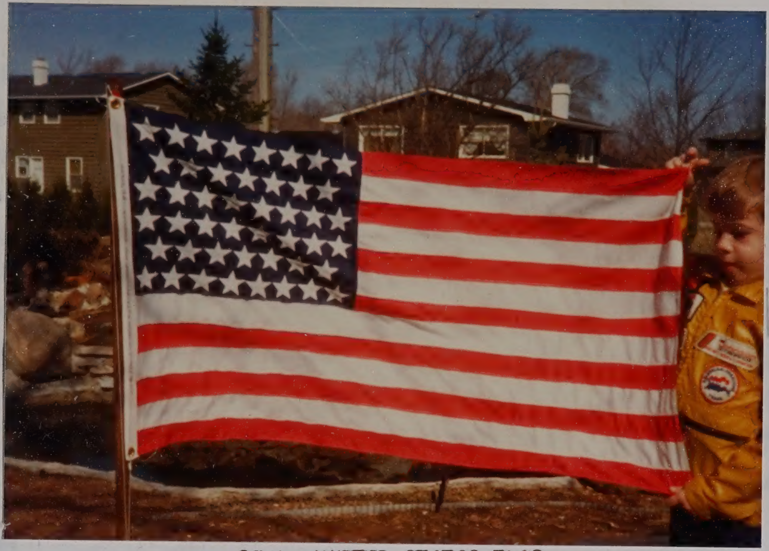
At home, Congress passed the first federal law concerning flag protocal on February 20, 1905. The act provided that no trademark could be registered if it "consists of or comprises the Flag or coat of arms or other insignia of the United States or ant simulation thereof, or of any State or municipality or of any foreign nation.."

Two years later in the celebrated case of HALTER v NEBRASKA the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of state statutes imposing penalties for desecration of the national flag. All the states in the Union now have specific laws prohibiting the desecration and other misuse of the Stars and Stripes. In sustaining such laws Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan of Kentucky called attention to the fact that the flag, which was " the emblem of freedom in its truest, best sense," was hardly intended for use on merchandise (in this case, a bottle of beer). The Jurist said:

> A State will be wanting in care for the well - being of its people if it ignores the fact that they regard the **Flag** as a symbol of their country's power and prestige, and will be impatient if any open disrespect is shown towards it. By the statute in question the State has in substance declared that no one subject to its jurisdictiom shall use the Flag for porposes of trade and traffic, a purpose wholly foreign to that for which it was provided by the Nation. Such a use tends to degrade and cheapen the Flag in the estimation of the people, as well as to defeat the object of maintaining it as an emblem of National power and National honor. And we can not hold that any privilege of American citizenship or that any right of personal liberty is violated by a state enactment forbidding the Flag to be used as an advertisement on a bottle of beer.... As the statute in question evidently had itsorigin in a purpose to cultivate a feeling of patriotism among the people of Nebraska, we are unwilling to adjudge that in legislation for that purpose the State erred in duty or has infringed the constitutional right of any one.

The United States' admitted its forty - sixth state Oklahoma, on November 16, 1907. Prior to 1889 this " Land of the Red People " (its Choctaw name) was unorganized Indian Territory, reserved exclusively for the settlement of indians dispossessed elsewhere. Then on April 22, 1889, the western part was officially opened to land - hungry whites. Thousands poured into the region and a year later the Territory of Oklahoma was organized with a population of more than a quarter of a million. During the next few years the federal government opened up the remainder of the area by making individual land allotments to the **Indians** and buying up the " surplus " land in their reservations. In 1905 the Indians made one final bid for recognition. They organized their remaining lands into the state of Sequoyah and asked for admission into the Union. Congress refused, and in the following year passed an enabling act for all of present Oklahoma to be united into one state.

(from David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



25th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1908 to 7 - 3 - 1912.
OKLAHOMA.
46 STARS.

Under this banner Theodore Roosevelt's term as President expired and his hand-picked successor, William Howard Taft, won election as the twenty - seventh President of the United States. The Republicans also maintained control of Congress but their long rule was drawing to a close. A party split between conservative " stalwarts " and progressive " insurgents " paved the way for a Democratic victory (the first since 1894) in the Congressional elections of 1910 and fortold the election of a Democratic President two years later..

The most heroic achievement under this flag took place in 1909 when cable and telegraph flashed to the world Admiral Robert E. Peary's prouf message:"Stars and Stripes nailed to the North Pole." Peary had reached his goal April 6, thus ending three centuries of struggle to reach the most northern point on the globe.

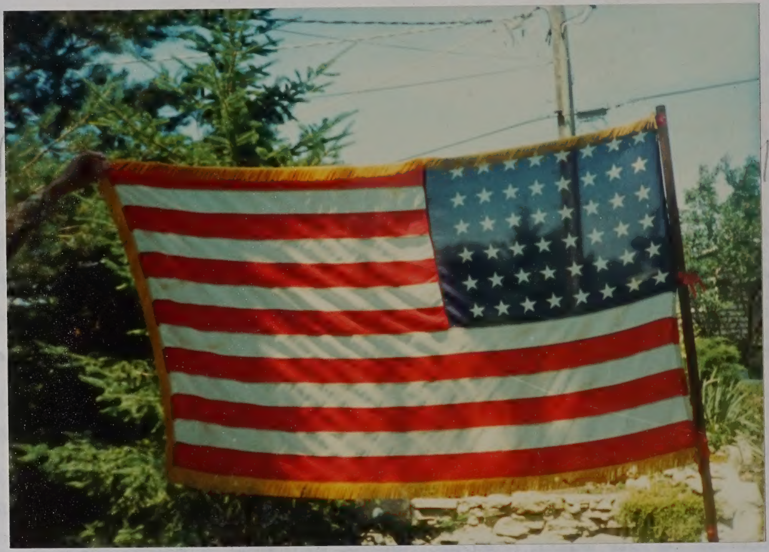
In 1911 the nation prepared to welcome two new states, Arizonia and New Mexico, which had long been territories. New Mexico Territory, which included all of present-day Arizonia north of the Gila River, was established in 1850. The area south of the Gila was acquired in 1853 through the Gadsden Purchase of 45,535 square miles from Mexico. The purchase was arranged by the United States minister to Mexico, James Gadsden, grandson of the South Carolina Revolutionary hero Christopher Gadsden.

In 1863 Arizona became a separate territory, Settlement was slow, however, and it was not until 1910 that Congress passed a dual enabling resolution. This act was veoted by President Taft because Arizona's constitution provided for the recall of judges. Finally, each state was admitted separately in 1912. New Mexico on January 6 and Arizona on February 14. All the territory within the contiguous borders of the United States was now embodied in forth - eight equal and sovereign states.

(From David Eggenberger's " The Flag Book of the U. S. A.)

In 1912 New Mexico and Arizona were admitted to the Union, increasing the number of States to forty - eight. Keeping step with this development, President Taft issued an executive order on June 24, 1912, in which the relative proportions of the flag and the arrangement of the stars were officially prescribed, investigation having dicclosed that no less than sixty - six different sizes and proportions were currently in use by the several executive departments of the Federal Government. Henceforth there would be only twelve different sizes, having uniform proportions of design.

(From " The History of the United States Flag" by Milo M. Quaife, Melvin J. Weig, and Roy E. Appleman.)



26th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
7 - 4 - 1912 to 7 - 3 - 1959.
ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO.

The twenty - fifth Stars and Stripes to symbolize the United States of America came into being July 4, 1912, with the addition of the forty - seventh and forty - eighth stars for New Mexico and Arizona. It was to serwer longer than any of its forerunners -- forty - seven years. And it was the flag of a record number of Presidents -- William H. Taft, 1912 - 1913,. Woodrow Wilson, 1913 - 1921; Warren G. Harding, 1921-1923; Calvin Coalidge, 1923 - 1929; Herbert Hoover, 1929 - 1933; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933 - 1945; Harry S. Truman. 1945 - 1953; and Dwight D. Eisenhower, inaugurated 1953.

Of all these Presidents -- as well as their twenty - six predecessors -- the one who made the biggest contribution to the flag itself was William Howard Taft. Prior to 1912 the federal government had not extablished any official signs or proportions for the Stars and Stripes. As a result there was little uniformity in the appearance of the national flag. An administration survey showed that government agencies alone were using national flags of sixty - six different sizes, most of them with varying proportions. The size and proportions of nongovernmental flags were even more chaotic. In the canton, most official flags, as well as most house flags, displayed the stars in a linear arrangement. But here too there was a wide variety of ingenious designs. A common practice was to arrange the stars in concentric circles, sometimes with a center star larger than the others.

In most government flags of forty - six stars the stars had been arranged in six rows, thus: 8 - 7 - 8 - 8 - 7 - 8. Whenit became certain that two more stars would be added for New Mexico and Arizona, the War and Navy departments established a joint board headed by Admiral George Dewey to recommend a common arrangement for the forty - eight stars. The board suggested six even rows of eight stars each. President Taft wisely approved the recommendations February 14, 1912. (The placing of the two new stars in the second and fifth rows disproved beyond question the popular belief that individual stars represented certain states according to the date of their admission into the Union.)

To establish some regularity in the form of the Stars and Stripes President Taft, by executive order dated June 24 and October 29, 1912, limited " the sizes of flags manufactured or purchased for Government Departments " to those with the following hoists: 20 feet, 19 (standard) 14.35, 12.19, 10, 8.94, 5, 3.52, 2.90, 2.37, and 1.31. The only exceptions were to be flags carried by the armed services. The President also ordered these proportions for all national flags.

Hoist (height) of flag.... 1 (unit)
Fly (length) of flag..... 1.9
Hoist of canton........... 7/13
Fly of canton............. 0.76
Width of each stripe....... 1/13
Diameter of each star...... 0.0616

Accompanying the executive order was a plan fornished by the Navy Department showing the exact configuration of the national flag. On May 29, 1916, this executive order was revoked by President Wilson and new regulations issued. The basic provisions of the 1912 order were retained, however. President Wilson disapproved only of the United States Navy practice of flying flags with only thirteen stars on small boats. He also altered the flag of the President (which was again redesigned by President Truman in 1945).

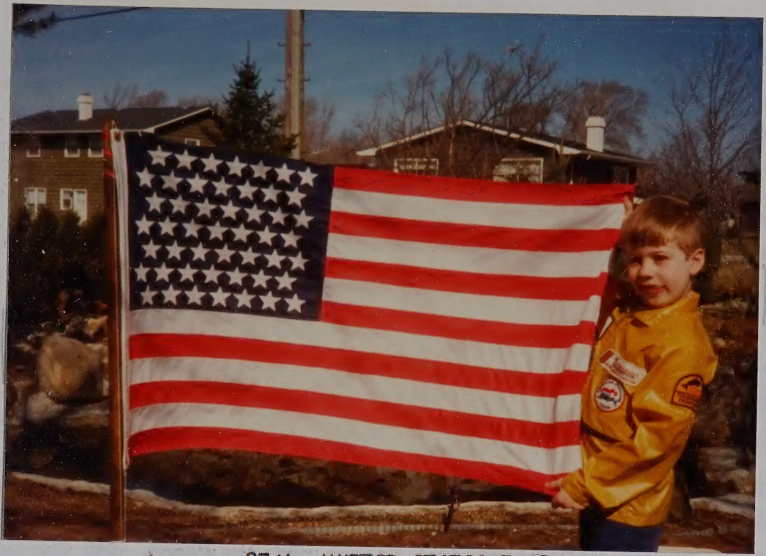
The exact shades of color to be used in the national flag were standardized for the first time in 1934. These are described by number in the Federal Standard Stock Catalog.

Under the flag of forty - eight stars the United States played an even larger role in international affairs. In 1917 it threw its industrial and military might on the Allied side to force Germany's surrender in World War 1. Then came two decades of peace - the roaring twenties and the depression - racked thirties. In 1941, two years after the outbreak, in Europe, of World War 2, the United States again plunged into a global conflict, fighting two major wars simultaneously - one in the Pacific against imperial Japan, the other in Africa and Europe against the totalitarian might of Germany and Italy. Even before the war was concluded the United States helped create and then joined the United Nations, an international organization dedicated to preserving peace in the world. But peace proved more elusive than ever. A cold war split the world into two armed camps. Communist and Allied. While major powers eyed each other suspiciously, fighting erupted in Korea. From 1950 to 1951 American troops fought in Korea to halt a Communist invasion of that divided country. And here for the first time soldiers, sailors, and airmen fought under an international flag -- the blue and white banner of the United Nations -- as well as under the Stars and Stripes.

Turbulent years of peace and war with many great accomplishments under the flag of forty - eight stars. A population surge from ninety - four to more than one hundred and seventy million. Creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United States first peacetime military alliance with nations outside the Western Hemisphere. The harnessing of atomic energy. All - time highs in production, employment, and the standard of living. And seven amendments to the Constitution - sixteenth (1913) authorizing federal income taxes, the seventeenth (1913) providing popular election of senators; the eighteenth (1920) establishing prohibition; the nineteenth (1920) granting suffrage to women; the twentieth (1943) eliminating lame - duck Presidents and Congresses; the twenty - first (1933) repealing prohibition; and the twenty - second (1951) limiting the President to two terms, or to ten years, in office.

Turbulent years of war and peace. And countless heroic deeds under forty- eight starred flags that will be cherished as long as the nation lives. Some of these proud banners have not yet been enshrined to take their place with the historic representatives of earlier national flags but the list is already impressive. At the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia, is the famous Stars and Stripes that was raised on Mount Suribachi during the bloody struggle for Iwo Jima in 1945. At the United States Military Academy at West Point is a fragment from the Stars and Stripes that was hidden when Corregidor fell in 1942, the flag that waved defiance over encircled Bastogne in 1944, and the flag that flew over SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force) during the Allied invasion of Germany 1944 - 1945.

(From David Eggenberger's " Flags of the U. S. A.)



27th. UNITED STATES FLAG.
ONLY STATE CARVED OUT OF PURCHASED TERRITORY.
7 - 4 - 1959 to 7 - 3 - 1960.
49 STARS.
ALASKA.

Alaska's entrance into the Union produced several newsworthy items. (1) The new state's area of 586,400 square miles made it the largest in the nation, more than double that of Texas, which is second in size. (2) For the first time in history the Union had been extended to include a state that lies outside the contiguous boundaries of the United States. (3) Alaska represents the only state carved out of territory that was purchased by the United States from Russia.

The winning of statehood status came ninety - one years after the territory had come under United States flag. Previously Russia had claimed Alaska on the basis of landings made along the coast by Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov in 1741. During the half century that followed, a profitable fur trade attracted hardy adventurers from Russia, Spain, England, France, Canada, and the United States. In 1799 the Russian government organized a semiofficial corporation, called the Russian - American Company, to regulate the fur trade and other commercial enterprises in the era. Chartered for twenty years, the Russian - American Company twice received twenty year renewals. In 1861, however, the administration of Alaskan affairs reverted to the Czarist government.

There was some American interest in buying Alaska during the administration of President Buchanan. The Russian government seemed willing to sell, but the Civil War in the United States postponed official negotiations. Finnally on March 30, 1867, President Johnson's Secretary of State, William H. Seward, completed the purchase for $7,200.00, or about two cents an acre. In a formal ceremony at Sitka on October 18 that year, the Russian flag was lowered and the United States flag became the official emblem of the territory formerly called Russian America. The ceremonial flag carried thirty - six stars although another star, for Nebraska, had been added July 4 that year. The historic emblem is now preserved in Alaska Historical Library and Museum at Juneau.

The population of Alaska at that time was about thirty thousand. Many Americans thought so little of the seemingly remote wilderness territory that they called it " Seward's Folly " or " Seward's Ice Box." For a long time progress was slow and the criticism appeared justified. Even the federal government took little interest in the new asqusition. It did not provide Alaska with civil government until 1884.

Alaska's first boom came in 1896 with the discovery of gold in the Klondike region of Canada. The Alaska Panahndle provided the most accessible route to the gold fields, and prospectors swarmed through Skagway and the treacherous Chilkoot Pass. Three years later a new gold strike near Nome brought in thousands of new immigrants. In 1902 a third gold rush centered in the Fairbank area. This was a violent, colorful era, made known to millions by the stories of Jack London and Rex Beach, and the poems of Robert W. Service.

Meanwhile the Klondike gold rush had painted up the importance of the water inlets in the Alaska Panhandle. Both Great Britain (speaking for Canada) and the United States claimed ownership. The British position was that the boundry line between Alaska and Canada followed the outer edges of the promontories; The United States said that the line followed the heads of the bays and inlets. In 1904 the United States and Great Britain agreed to arbitrate the dispute before a six - man commission (three British and three Americans). by a four to two vote the commission upheld the United States claim.

Alaska won the right to send an elected delegate to Washington, D. C. in 1906. six years later it achieved home rule with the granting of territorial status. At that time the population was about 60,000. By 1940 the number of Alaskans had grown to only 72,524.

A new era of rapid development opened with the coming of World War 2 and the air age. The future forty - nineth state zoomed into world - wide importance as a defensive outpost of the United States, and it is now the site of valuable bases for the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. Alaska is also a vital avenue of air travel as it lies across the most direct route from Mid - America to eastern Siberia, Tokyo, and Manila. In addition to air lines and steamship routes, the northern most state is connected to the rest of the Union bt the Alaska Highway, completed during World War 2. As evidence of its new boom the population increased by more than 75 per cent between 1940 and 2950, to 128,643. It continued to grow so rapidly that at the time of statehood the figure was estimated at more than 200,000.

Alaska took a long step toward statehood in 1946 when it conducted a territory - wide referendum on the subject. By a three to two ratio, voters approved the plan to become a state. The first Congressional hearings took place in 1947 and 1948 but the bill to admit the new state did not reach a vote. For the next ten years Congress debated the admission of Alaska, but each session adjourned without taking any action. The last near miss came in 1954 when the House of Representatives voted a bill calling for the admission of Hawaii as the forty - ninth state. Instead of accepting the House bill the Senate voted to admit both Hawaii and Alaska as states. This measure died in the House.

Finally on June 30, 1958, both Houses of the eighty - fifth Congress, in its second session, passed a bill admitting Alaska as a state. President Eisenhower signed the measure into law. The bill specified that before the new state could be admitted to the Union, the voters of Alaska must approve by referendum three separate propositions. Alaskans were asked to vote on (1) immediate statehood; (2) the state boundaries as outlined in the bill (similar to the territorial boundries); and (3) all other provisions of the bill, the most important authorizing federal control over some public lands.

On July 16 the territorial governor, Mike Stepovich, set the referendum for August 20. On that date voters approved all three propositions by five to one margins. At the same time the new state held its first primary election, nominating candidates for its two seats in the Senate and one in the House. The first general election was held November 25.

From David Eggenberger " Flafs Of The U. S. A.)

28th. UNITED STATES FLAG.

ONLY STATE TO HAVE BEEN A KINGDOM, REPUBLIC, TERRITORY, AND NOW A STATE.

7 - 4 - 1960 to

50 STARS

HAWAII

The twenty - seventh Stars and Stripes flag rendered obsalete the one year flag of forty - nine stars.

The admission of Hawaii into the Union climaxed more than half a century of effort to win statehood status for this group of islands. The first formal request came in 1903. It was rejected. In 1937, a Congressional committee investigated the possibility of admitting Hawaii as a state. It reported adversely, giving as reasons the mixed character of the population and the detached position of the island group. Later several statehood bills won approval in the House of Representatives only to be blocked in the Senate by political expediency and prejudice. In all, more than a dozen unsuccessfyl atempts were made to bring the territory into the Union as a State.

In 1950 a Hawaiian convention drew up a state constitution which was ratified later that year by popular vote, 82,788 to 27,109. When Alaska won Congressional approval for statehood in 1958, Hawaii gained new hope for admission into the Union. This hope was finally realized the following year when both houses of Congress voted to admit Hawaii as the fiftieth state. President Eisenhower signed the measure into law six days later, on March 18, 1959.

In a special election held June 27, 1959, Hawaii voted overwhelmingly " Yes " to three statehood propositions;

1. Shall Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a state?
2. Does Hawaii consent to the exclusion of Palmyra island from the boundaries of the new state?
3. Does Hawaii accept statehood under all other conditions specified in the statehood bill, including land grants and reservations and one member of the House of Representatives?

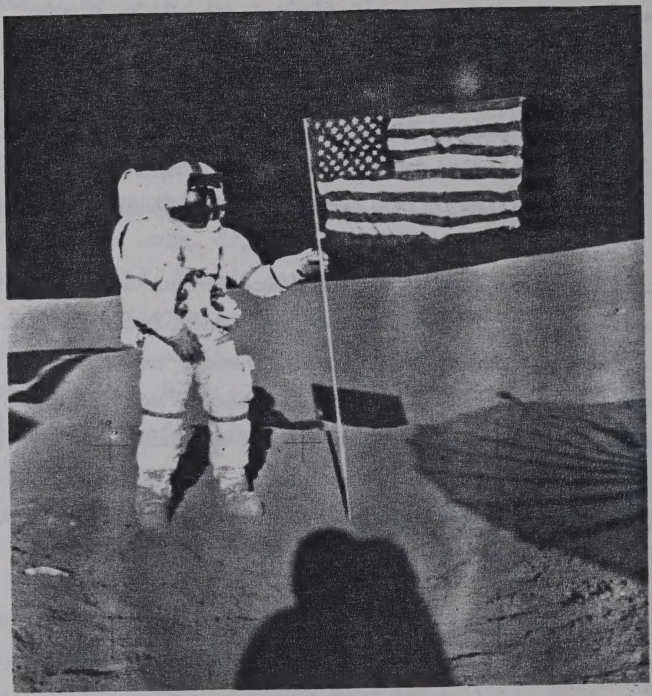
From David Eggenberger's Flags of the U. S. A.

The growth of our National Flag espresses the development of the Nation itself. From a small strip of territory along the Atlantic coast, the United States has grown to a huge country which stretches from ocean to ocean. The design of our National banner symbolizes, as it always has, the great diversity of peoples, races, languages, religions and interests which united in a common Nation and destiny.

And of the hundreds and hundreds of flags in the " Old World," " OLD GLORY " is the first and only flag on the moon, Three times Old Glory has been planted on the Moon by American Astronauts. The first time by Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. on July 20th, 1969, the second time by Charles Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean on November 19th., 1969, and the third time by Alan B. Shepard Jr. and Edgar D. Mitchell on February 5th., 1971. All six of the Astronauts are former Boy Scouts.

Through foreign war and great civil conflict it has endured, and in enduring has spread United States influence from thirteen original States of the Atlantic seaboard to the Mississippi Valley, across the plains of Texas, on to Oregon and California, and thence to Alaska and the tropical waters of the mid - Pacific. More than a million people have sacrificed and given their life blood in its defence, and for Americans it has come to signify honor and love of country beyond price. May it wave proudly forever, this Stars and Stripes, a glorious, living symbol of human dignity, liberty under law, and equal opportunity for fulfillment of men's hopes!

President Woodrow Wilson said " This flag which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of unityof our power, our thought, and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours."



Old Glory the First Flag on the Moon

This photograph taken February 5, 1971 by Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell shows Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr., Commander of *Apollo 14* making the third implanting of Old Glory on the surface of the moon. The first was made by Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. on July 20, 1969 and the second by Astronauts Charles Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean on Nov. 19, 1969. All six of these Astronauts were once Scouts. Truly it can be said today, "There isn't a man on this earth who has been on the moon who wasn't first a Boy Scout."

Of the 57 living astronauts 44 were Scouts.

And of the hundreds and hundreds of flags in this world "Old Glory" is the first and only flag on the moon.